0856-B-03 PREX 7.10: FBIS-EAS-91-031-A

Foreign
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ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Annex

East Asia

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FBIS-EAS-91-031-A
Thursday
14 February 1991

JB 99-014132

JL: 31-38

COMPLETED

East Asia
ANNEX

FBIS-EAS-91-031-A

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Japan

Kaifu Gulf Effort, U.S. Leadership Statements

OW0902033891 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 8 Feb 91 p 20—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Contributed article by Minoru Tada, former YOMIURI SHIMBUN political editor: "Kaifu Does the Utmost for Now"]

[Text] The government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has been pressed into a difficult situation with respect to its additional contribution to the multinational forces' Gulf War effort.

The government proposes to send Self-Defense Forces [SDF] aircraft to help evacuate refugees from the area involved in the war. It is also seeking Diet approval for an additional monetary contribution of $9 billion.

The overseas dispatch of SDF personnel was rejected when the proposed United Nations Peace Cooperation Bill fell through in the previous Diet session. Public sentiment was also against the idea. The use of SDF aircraft in a war zone therefore, would go against the principle of Japan's parliamentary rule.

As a result, the government proposes to use the military aircraft strictly for humanitarian purposes, that is, the transport of refugees—which would never constitute an act of cooperation in the use of military force or the threat to use military force. A special government ordinance would be issued to make this operation possible for this one time only. In other words, it would be an exceptional instance.

Not surprisingly, the hawkish elements of the Liberal-Democratic Party [LDP] showed an excessive response to the demands by certain U.S. congressional and diplomatic elements for the contribution of SDF personnel. These LDP people are worried that Japan-bashing will be intensified if Japan does not comply with these demands. The hawks also wished to use the present occasion to open the way for overseas dispatches of SDF personnel and to emphasize the image at home and abroad that the SDF is indeed a real military force.

The hawkish elements are apparently unhappy about the course taken by the government. They do not think that the government is doing enough. However, the option proposed by Kaifu—a government ordinance to limit the overseas dispatch of SDF aircraft to this one time only, to avoid taking such action on every similar occasion in the future—is the utmost he can do at present.

The additional monetary contribution of $9 billion poses a more difficult problem to the Kaifu government. Unlike the $4 billion pledged before the hostilities broke out, the additional contribution could imply—though Japan is acting in accordance with U.N. resolutions—our country's indirect participation in another's war if the money is used entirely to defray direct war expenses. This view is possible in light of our country's Constitution, which renounces aggression and recognizes only self-defense military action. For this reason, even the opposition Komeito, which is relatively sympathetic to the LDP, was rocked by strong arguments against the additional monetary contribution.

Further complicating an already difficult situation was the recent remark by U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker that the $9 billion will be used to defray his country's war costs as Washington requested. Fortunately, Prime Minister Kaifu and the Foreign Ministry acted promptly, and the United States later changed the wording to say use of the Japanese money would be limited to logistical support. The Kaifu government sighed with relief, and Komeito relaxed its attitude. To be sure, the money is not marked, and no one can prove with utmost certainty how it will be spent. Well, that's what politics and diplomacy are.

There are still problems, however. The basis of the rough estimate that Japan will shoulder 20 percent of the war's cost is not clear. Where will the money come from? There is the question of whether inceasing the nation's tax burden by Y10,000 per capita (with the government issuing deficit-covering bonds as an immediate measure) is right or wrong. The American authorities have said that the U.S. itself need not raise taxes because Japan and its other allies are sharing the war's expenses.

The opposition holds the majority in the upper house of the Diet. Therefore, a bill to increase taxes will not take effect without Komeito's support. This situation will not change even if the Kaifu government falls and a new administration takes over. Komeito says that the $9 billion should be covered not by raising taxes but by cutting defense and other budgetary spending.

Japan is firmly dedicated to peace. It maintains that outrageous conduct such as Iraq's should be eliminated. It believes that it should provide monetary and humanitarian assistance based on resolutions of the United Nations. Monetary burden-sharing is fine. However, there is no evidence of prior consultation on the early resort to force against Iraq or on a role-sharing decision. Now should Japan have made such a commitment even if there were such consultations. However, the U.S. has a huge budget deficit, even without a war, and the rest of the world agrees that Washington should raise taxes and reduce spending. I understand well the difficult task confronting U.S. leaders, but I would like to hope that they will refrain from speaking and acting in ways that will embarrass both the leaders and taxpayers of allies and friendly nations.

Groups React to Kaifu Remark on U.S. Gulf Troops

OW0302092891 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 2 Feb 91 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's statement in the Diet that there were no prior consultations between Japan and the United States in connection with the dispatch of U.S. Forces stationed in Japan to the Middle East has aroused distrust among antiwar and peace organizations.

The organizations are saying that if such moves are not the subject of prior consultations, then the prior consultations system itself has become meaningless.

The prior consultations system was established at the time of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in 1960 to prevent the entry of nuclear weapons into Japan and the use of Japan as a base for mounting military operations. However, the system has never been used in the 30 years since then.

Kaifu's statement was made in answer to questions by Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (formerly Japan Socialist Party), in the Lower House plenary session on Monday.

The Foreign Ministry listed the following two reasons for no consultation: (1) consultation is needed only in cases where bombers go out on sorties directly from U.S. bases in Japan; and (2) this time the American warships and units were just moved elsewhere because of operation conditions.

People living in Okinawa and Yokosuka are rejecting such explanations by the government and the Foreign Ministry. Peace organizations say that Japan cannot be called an independent nation if the government ignores the prior consultations system.

The aircraft carrier Midway left Yokosuka Navy base in October 1990, saying it was going out on maneuvers, but it was announced 10 days later that it was joining the multinational force in the Middle East. Peace organizations charge that the warship left Yokosuka for the express purposes of going to the Middle East. They say it is also significant that the commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka is now serving as the commander of the U.S. Middle East naval force.

The Harrier attack planes at the Iwakuni U.S. Marines base in Yamaguchi Prefecture were said to be returning to the United States, but they were hurriedly given a coat of desert camouflage paint and flew out in the middle of December.

The combat units which have gone from U.S. bases in Japan to the Middle East total more than 15,000 men, including the six-warship group centered on the Midway from Yokosuka, about 6,000 Marines from Okinawa and 31 attack planes from Iwakuni.

Gulf War Seen as Crisis in Relations With U.S.

OW1302120591 Tokyo THE JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 16 Feb 91 p 8—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Commentary" column by Takeshi Sasaki, professor of political science at Tokyo University: "Gulf War Puts Kaifu Government and Japan-U.S. Relations in Harm's Way"]

[Text] It is widely held that the Gulf war will not have much of an adverse impact on the Japanese economy. In the political arena, however, it may well bring on the most serious crisis to hit Japan in 30 years.

Whether or not the Kaifu government survives this crisis will depend on how the war develops. For the moment, though, its prospects do not look very good.

A recent public opinion poll, for example, showed that the Japanese people have become increasingly cool toward government policy, which now includes an additional $9 billion in aid to the multinational forces and the dispatch of aircraft from the Self-Defense Forces to the Middle East. If nuclear weapons are somehow introduced into the conflict, moreover, Japanese public opinion toward the Kaifu administration will turn considerably colder.

Without doubt, the Gulf war is seen in Japan more as a matter of Japan-U.S. relations than as a Middle East issue. Indeed, the Japanese Government seems to have no Middle East policy whatsoever, aside from calling for a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. And even while the government speaks of supporting a peaceful resolution to the conflict, it has presented no concrete ideas about how to achieve peace in the Middle East. It has also taken no clear position on how to address the issue of Palestine.

While the Japanese Government speaks of Japan as a superpower, it lacks any diplomatic policy worthy of a superpower. It also seems to lack the political will to take on those risks needed to implement such a policy.

The only clear objective in Japan's foreign policy is to avoid at all costs any behavior which runs counter to the high policy of the U.S. Government. In that sense, the Gulf crisis can be seen as the origin of a serious crisis in Japan-U.S. relations.

This heavy emphasis on U.S. relations reflects a fear of increased Japan bashing and the economic consequences thereof. It seems the Japanese Government has made no political decisions on, or even given much thought to, how it would react to a number of contingencies. How would it respond, for example, if the multinational forces do not stop with the liberation of Kuwait, or if conflicts continue even after the war has ended? Lacking a policy of its own, the government seems simply to be caught up in aimless, endless economic support for the multinational force.

There has been more than a little overseas criticism of the Japanese government's response. Its complete failure to assert itself politically, while undoubtedly a source of aggravation to foreign governments, at the same time renders Japan easily manipulated. It must also be pointed out that it is the Japanese people themselves, rather than overseas critics, who are most dismayed by their government's incompetence and ineffectiveness.

As is often pointed out, Japan is a severely unbalanced superpower, whose strength resides solely in its economy. The Japanese Government, unable to make effective use of this economic strength, is literally held captive by it.

The war, by creating a clear contrast between a U.S. that is shedding its own blood and a Japan which is not shedding a single drop, has created a new Japan-U.S. conflict which is totally different from the economic friction which already plagues the relationship.

The U.S. is now in a position of seeing how far it can and should go in criticizing Japan for stingy contributions. The Japanese Government, paralyzed by its own ineffectiveness, has placed itself in a position where it will be endlessly criticized no matter how much money it offers. Japan has become somewhat a punching bag.

The Gulf war has been much harsher on Japan than last year's Structural Impediments Initiative talks. It lends credence, in a way which can be easily grasped by foreign populations, to the claim that Japan is somehow different or peculiar. The Kaifu administration has used economic assistance in an attempt to combat these claims and to prevent Japan's isolation in the international community.

Whether or not this approach succeeds will depend on whether or not additional pressure continues to be put on Japan. It will also depend on whether or not the government can get the Japanese people to go along with a major tax increase, in spite of constitutional limitations and the government's demonstrated lack of effectiveness.

What is certain is that the Japanese Government lacks control over the situation. This raises the possibility that, if it performs poorly, it will be squeezed between conflicting foreign and domestic pressures and, lacking any means of escape, will inevitably collapse.

Even assuming that the latest $9 billion proposal for aid to the multinational forces is approved by the Diet, if additional funds are again demanded, the Kaifu cabinet will certainly fall. At that point, Japanese politics will face a rather serious crisis. The problem will not be one which could be resolved merely with a change in the cabinet. Rather, it will involve the very way in which things are done in Japanese politics.

Specifically, this problem could not be addressed effectively by the special interest politics at which Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] administrations have been so adept. At the very least, the LDP will have to form a coalition government with the Komei Party and the Democratic Socialist Party. A rise of nationalism will also be inevitable, with the likely result of a breakup in the LDP. At the same time, an anti-war movement centering around the Social Democratic Party of Japan (formerly the Japan Socialist Party) will gain strength, while those calling for Japan to join in the bloodshed will begin to assert themselves openly. In this way, the Gulf war may provide the impetus for the emergence of a "Japan that can say no." At the same time, it will also bring a radial restructuring of Japanese politics.

The Gulf war has been called a critical test for the building of a new international order. But a long, treacherous road remains before that new order is reached. For the time being, what can be expected is a heightening of the conflicts which have plagued Japan-U.S. relations over the past several years.

Editorial Urges Strong U.S. Leadership in Gulf

OW0202114991 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 1 Feb 91 p 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN 31 January editorial: "State of the Union"]

[Text] In his State of the Union address to the U.S. Congress, President George Bush expressed his government's determination to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait which was the cause of the current Gulf war.

"Any cost in lives is beyond our power to measure. But the cost of closing our eyes to aggression is beyond mankind's power to imagine," Bush said.

In the first wartime address by a U.S. President to Congress since the Vietnam conflict, Bush also stressed the leadership and unique responsibility of the United States in ensuring security for the Gulf region after the war, in constructing a foundation for U.S.-Soviet cooperation and in creating a new world order.

We appreciate the U.S. resolve to face up to aggression valiantly even at the sacrifice of the lives of its people, for Japan and the world know very well what started this war.

In a joint statement issued Tuesday, the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister said they agreed that the multinational forces will cease hostilities if Iraq explicitly pledges to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and that countries involved wil hold a conference with priority placed on Middle East issues, including the Palestine issue.

U.S. Firm Resolve

We believe that Bush's address and this joint statement are interrelated. Iraq should never doubt the U.S. firm resolve to put an end to its aggression and to stabilize the Gulf region once the fighting is over. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn should waste no time in promising to withdraw from Kuwait.

Bush also said that the end of the Cold War is a victory for all mankind and praised U.S. initiatives for their role in helping to create a unified free Europe. He said the United States is the only nation on Earth which could unite its power for peace, and that it will play a central role in building a new world order.

Bush did express strong concern and criticism of the Kremlin's military crackdown on the Baltic republics, which is a critical isue threatening the relationship between Washington and Moscow. He also said he hoped the Soviet Union will continue its commitment to democracy and reform in order to build a lasting basis for U.S.-Soviet cooperation which is indispensable for a peaceful future.

U.S. Economy

Bush was optimistic about the outlook for the U.S. economy, which entered a recession in the last quarter of

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1990, bringing an end to eight years of economic expansion. Many people in the United States and elsewhere wonder how long this recession will last. Bush said the recession will be short, citing the moderate inflation rate and the growth in exports. Nevertheless, it is widely believed the United States will find it hard to pursue its plan to cut the federal budget deficit by $500 billion in five years.

There are many unpredictable elements, including the Gulf war, that make forecasting business trends extremely difficult. However, Bush must seriously tackle economic problems and other domestic issues so that he can provide the leadership and assume the responsibility in forging a new international order. Bush must show strong leadership in pursuing his Gulf policy and in reconstructing the U.S. economy.

Nakayama Links Gulf Aid to Relations With U.S.

OW0402181491 Tokyo JIJI in English 1435 GMT 4 Feb 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (JIJI PRESS)—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama Monday stressed the importance of extending aid to the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf in order to maintain favorable Japan-U.S. relations.

Nakayama was responding to a question by Koichi Hamada of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at a House of Representatives Budget Committee session.

As foreign minister, Nakyama said, he is always wondering whether the United States would shed blood to defend Japan under the Bilateral Security Treaty even if stable Japan-U.S. ties were broken.

Hamada also raised the question of whether Japan will be able cooperate with U.N. forces in the future within the framework of the Japanese Constitution, specifically whether or not Japan can exercise military power.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu replied that all Japanese parties are studying how Japan could cooperate with U.N. forces in the event of the use of military power by the United Nations.

Japan must not use its military strength even then, Kaifu said, though he declined to comment on the issue of collective defense rights.

In this connection, Nakayama said the Kaifu cabinet intends to act in line with the Constitution in assisting U.N. efforts to settle international conflicts in the future.

Article Views Kaifu's Strategy on Gulf Aid

OW0302111591 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 2 Feb 91 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Article by Kojiro Shiraishi from "Political Beat" column: "Can Kaifu Bridge Gulf in Diet?"]

[Text] The additional contributions proposed for the Gulf war—$9 billion and the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces [SDF] planes—are expected to take center stage in the resumed Diet session.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who have staked their credibility on promises of aid, can anticipate a tough fight—tougher, even, than last fall's extraordinary Diet session in which the government plan to send SDF personnel to the Gulf was heatedly opposed and ultimately rejected.

The government has managed to bypass the Diet on the dispatch of military planes. To permit the flights, the government will amend an ordinance to the Self-Defense Forces Law, an action that does not require Diet approval as a revision to the law itself would.

But both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors must pass bills to increase taxes and issue deficit-financing government bonds to raise the additional money Kaifu has pledged for the multinational forces.

Only one of the major opposition parties, the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], supports the extra Gulf aid—at least in principle. (Japan had previously promised $2 billion.) Komeito remains undecided. The Japan Socialist Party—the largest opposition party—and the Japan Communist Party are adamantly opposed. They say the $9 billion will be used to pay for weapons and ammunition for U.S. troops in the Gulf, rather than to pay for logistic support for the multinational forces.

The previous pledge was preconditioned on promises that no money would go toward military expenses. The restriction was meant to appease the opposition parties, which control the upper house. Most of the $2 billion has already been channeled into a special fund set up within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Although the Foreign Ministry has insisted that the money be paid for transport trucks exactly how it was disbursed is unknown.

In principle, the GCC, in consultation with the Japanese Government, decides how the money is spent. In reality, the fund is used at the discretion of the U.S. forces in the Gulf.

To quiet the opposition, the government is said to be thinking of instructing Kaifu to tell questioners during the Diet session that the $9 billion will go for nonmilitary items only.

Kaifu's strategy for passage for the bills needed to finance the aid is to woo Koshiro Ishida and Keigo Ouchi, chairmen of Komeito and the DSP, respectively. As it stands now, there is a 50-50 chance that the bills will pass.

Should the bills fail, Kaifu and Ozawa will be accused of poor leadership. Put more strongly, both would probably be ousted from their jobs. Kaifu could be driven from office in May, rather than in late October when his term expires.

Komeito's Ishida holds the key. The LDP leadership's ability to elicit his support for the money and planes is expected to preoccupy their behind-the-scenes jockeying in this Diet session.

Input Urged in Spending of Additional Gulf Aid

OW1002094091 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 10 Feb 91 p 2—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Comment" column by Motoharu Okada, ASAHI SHIMBUN editorial writer: "Japan Should Have a Say in How $9 Billion Is Used"]

[Text] Citizens of many of the allied force nations hated to leave their homelands and were reluctant to involve themselves in expedition forces and, instead of providing warships, bore costs assessed them.

This sounds like the situation in the Persian Gulf war, but it is the description made by the historian Thucydides about the Peloponnesian War, in which the Athens-led Delian League fought the Sparta-led Peloponnesian League in Greece in the fifth century B.C.

Against the backdrop of its significant economic power, the Delian League sent a formidable fleet in an all-out effort to stamp out the militaristic Spartans. That does not mean that all the allies took part in the war.

It is interesting that the idea of bearing part of the war cost in atonement for non-participation in the war existed 2,500 years ago. Incidentally, the Peloponnesian War unexpectedly dragged on and the Delian League collapsed with the defeat of Athens.

The nation is split over the Japanese Government's commitment to Washington for an additional $9 billion (1.2 trillion yen) in contributions to the Gulf war effort. At ongoing Diet deliberations, the primary focus is whether the money should be paid and, if so, on what conditions and how it should be procured.

The government and the Liberal-Democratic Party [LDP] want to secure Diet approval on the secondary supplemental budget for fiscal 1990 as soon as possible and send the money to the Gulf Cooperation Council's peace fund by the end of March. Their idea is to work out ways and means with the floating of national bonds for the time being and redeem them in fiscal 1991, with temporary increases in corporate taxes and taxes on petroleum and tobacco.

What fails to impress many Japanese taxpayers is the government's single guiding principle of kowtowing to Washington. Over the offer of the first monetary contribution immediately after the outbraek of the Gulf war, the government fell into disrepute for being so slow in making a decision. Now, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has pledged that the government will make yet another contribution precisely as demanded by the U.S. Administration.

It therefore stands to reason that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has asserted the $9 billion will be spent to finance the American war effort. But this sort of remark arouses discontent on the part of the Japanese people. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu should explicitly explain developments leading to the decision and the basis on which the contribution was calculated.

Agreement is being made on a Japanese readiness to have a consummate share in the cost for security around the world. Having decided to make a contribution, Japan ought to have a say. Why not demand Washington strive for a cease-fire at every possible chance, terminate the war simultaneously with Kuwait's liberation and fall in line with U.N. resolutions on the question of Palestine?

On the expenditure of the fund, the government says that it will ask the Gulf fund management committee not to spend it on weaponry and ammunition. But this condition sounds hollow. Rather it should study the possibility of setting aside half for postwar reconstruction and support to peripheral countries.

The method to procure the fund is of secondary importance. Now that $9 billion is to come from Japan, the payment economically constitutes a deflationary factor, irrespective of whether the fund will be procured with tax increases or cuts in the government's annual expenditure. If it stays as it is, the $9 billion will account for 3 percent or so of gross national product. It is not an unabsorbable amount, provided that efforts are made to minimize its impact on the market.

But the people might have a sense of resistance to the raising of the fund through higher taxes. As the contribution is, after all, designed for security in a broader context, one way to raise the funds would be to cut defense outlays.

Gulf Aid Linked to LDP Concessions to Komeito

OW0902104691 Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 8 Feb 91 p 1—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] In a tug-of-war taking place in Nagatacho, the government and ruling Liberal-Democratic Party [LDP] are trying to decide how much slack it needs to give Komeito before it can draw them in on a funding package for the 9 billion dollar contribution that has been promised to the multinational war effort against Iraq.

In what looks to be the government's first concessionary move, it indicated Wednesday that it would slash 30 billion yen in corporate taxes from tax increases that have been suggested in order to cover the 9 billion dollar contribution.

At the same time, at a hotel in Yamagata City, Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida reiterated that Komeito would vote for the additional Gulf war contributions as long as the government agrees to its expenditure-cutting proposal, and drops its plans to increase taxes.

The government earlier announced plans to raise petroleum, cigarette, and corporate taxes for a one-year period in fiscal 1991 to finance the 9 billion dollar donation, and has proposed hedging the tax funds by printing six-month government bonds.

But in order to get this funding package passed in the Diet Komeito's approval is essential.

Although Komeito has expressed support for the contribution, it is against raising taxes, in particular corporate taxes, to finance it.

Komeito would find it difficult to accept the government's tax increases because it is backed by owners of small- and medium-sized corporations.

Komeito's support in the House of Councillors, which is not controlled by the LDP, is vital to the passage of a number of bills that will make the 9 billion dollar contribution possible.

Following are four scenarios to illustrate what the government's choices are in getting Komeito to jump on its bandwagon:

Slashing Corporate Taxes by 30 Billion Yen

The government and ruling party are looking favorably upon a proposal to decrease the value of the proposed increases in corporate taxes. The plan is to increase the deduction on the new corporate tax from 2 million yen to 3 million yen.

As a result, approximately 30 billion yen would be lost on the original outlook of 590 billion yen in revenues from this corporate tax increase.

But the Finance Ministry is calling on each of the government ministries and agencies to conserve at least 500 million yen in expenditures for this fiscal year's budget.

With the reserves accrued from the government ministries and agencies, therefore, the government will be able to cover the 30 billion yen decrease.

In this case, the Finance Ministry would not have to deal with changes to the budget for fiscal 1991, as all revisions could be made in time to be entered into the supplementary budget for this fiscal year.

However, Komeito has called for decreases of 500 billion yen, and it is unlikely that it will be drawn in by this 30 billion yen concession.

Scrap the Increased Tobacco Tax

If the above does not work, the government could scrap the proposed increase in tobacco taxes.

Under the current proposal, the government expects to yield 140 billion yen from the increased tobacco tax. Each cigarette would be taxed 0.435 yen extra, which, along with retailing fees, figures to a 10 yen increase for a pack of cigarettes.

Even if the government curtailed its expenditures, 140 billion yen is out of the question. So either this amount is covered by deficit-financing government bonds, or further cuts are made in the fiscal 1991 budget.

The Finance Ministry does not want to do either. But within the LDP more and more lawmakers see no choice but to issue deficit-financing bonds.

Reassess New 5-Year Defense Buildup Plan

During a session of the Budget Committee Tuesday, Komeito Secretary-General Yuichi Ichikawa brought up the possibility of cutting expenditures by putting on hold orders for tanks and ships that are included in the new five-year defense buildup plan.

The budget estimates for the new buildup plan have reached 22.75 trillion yen.

The government's fundamental stance on this issue is that since the new plan has been approved by the cabinet, to change its core would affect the basic stance of the cabinet, and further, it would worsen relations with the United States.

For the time being, the government seems to be limited in what it can do with the new five-year plan. Maybe the most it can do at the moment is to take advantage of an article in the plan that allows for revisions in three years' time.

Ax Tax Increases

If Komeito does not accept any of the above concessions, the govenment and ruling party have no choice but to forget the tax increase bills which need to be passed by both houses of the Diet, and concentrate on getting approval for the supplementary budget bill.

Since Lower House decisions on budgetary matters take precedence over those of the Upper House, the supplementary budget bill could still be enacted even if vetoed by the Upper House.

For the Finance Ministry this is the worst case scenario.

Government May Scale Down Evacuee Airlift Plan

OW0702204091 Tokyo JIJI in English 1437 GMT 7 Feb 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 (JIJI PRESS)—The government's plan to send Self-Defense Force (SDF) planes to airlift evacuees from the Persian Gulf war is likely to be largely scaled down due to a smaller number of evacuees than expected, Defense Agency sources said Thursday.

Under its initial plan, the agency would dispatch two C-130 transport planes out of five assigned for the mission to the Middle East. The planes would be replaced with another pair of aircraft in two weeks to one month, with the remaining one plane set aside as a backup.

The two planes would transport evacuees from Amman, Jordan, to Cairo, Egypt, twice a day, with the backup of a support group of 200 SDF men to be stationed in Cairo on a long-term basis.

According to the office of the U.N. Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), however, only 2,283 people were staying in Jordan after evacuation from Iraq as of Wednesday. The number, including 831 Sudanese and 393 Somalis, is far smaller than hundreds of thousands expected before the outbreak of the war Jan. 17.

Thanks to efforts to transport evacuees by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of evacuees in Jordan has been on the decline, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Taking that situation into account, the Defense Agency is now studying such options as drastically shortening the period of the support group's staying in Cairo and reducing the number of SDF planes to be dispatched, the sources said.

Japan could consider only sending SDF planes to the Middle East for round trips via Amman and Cairo, without setting up the support base in Cairo, they said.

Defense Agency Director-General Yukihiko Ikeda, meanwhile, told the House of Representatives budget committee Thursday that the agency would not fly SDF planes to the Middle East unless their safe flight is secured.

At the session, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama confirmed Tokyo's policy of using SDF planes for evacuee transport only when it finds no commercial aircraft available for that mission.

Defense Agency Outlines Refugee Transport Plan

OW0402105391 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Feb 91 Morning Edition p 2—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] The outline of the plan to dispatch Self-Defense Forces transport aircraft for evacuating refugees in the Gulf war was disclosed on 3 February. Major points in the outline worked out by the Defense Agency [DA] are as follows: (1) two teams, each composed of two C-130H transport aircraft, will be dispatched to the area, while one aircraft will be put on standby in Japan; (2) Cairo airport will serve as the base in the area; (3) a ground crew will be dispatched first by a civilian aircraft to make preparations in Cairo; and (4) necessary materials and equipment will be sent to Cairo not only by C-130H aircraft but also by civilian aircraft.

The Air Self-Defense Force already completed a special check of the five aircraft to be dispatched to ensure their capability for long-term flights. It is expected that preparations at home, including pilot training, will be completed within the week.

According to the DA plan, the number of aircraft to be dispatched will be decided in accordance with future requests from the International Organization of Migration (IOM). However, the first team of two aircraft will be dispatched to Cairo for the time being, and then, the second team will be deployed whenever it becomes necessary.

As for the flight course, the aircraft will leave first for Okinawa from Komaki Base in Aichi Prefecture, where C-130H aircraft are stationed. Then, the team is scheduled to stop over in Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Oman for refilling oil and other materials. It is estimated that it will take 4 days for the aircraft to arrive in Cairo.

Moreover, since some necessary materials and equipment are too big to be carried by the C-130H aircraft, a study is being conducted on the possibility of using private-sector cargo planes.

Confident of 'Safe Operation'

OW1002193391 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 10 Feb 91 Morning Edition p 2—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] On 9 February, the Defense Agency [DA] completed a study of technical aspects concerning the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces [SDF] transport planes to the Middle East for refugee evacuation and arrived at the conclusion that "it would be quite possible to ensure a safe operation." As a result of the study, which was conducted with the Air Self-Defense Force playing the leading role, it was decided that a transport base could be set up at Cairo airport in Egypt because support for maintenance and supplies is available; that no particular problems exist in public security and order at the Amman airport in Jordan because the airport would be under heavy guard by the local authorities; and that despite the orignal plan of sending from 200 to 300 SDF officers, it seemed that the operation could be carried out with less than 200 officers.

The situation surrounding the decision on the SDF aircraft has shifted to a state of flux. The final discussion, however, was held up on technical problems on the basis of various materials, including a report compiled by an advance study group that returned home early last week. As a result, it has been clarified that apron space for SDF aircraft can be secured at the Cairo airport and that all the equipment and spare parts needed for maintenance work can be supplied locally and will not have to be shipped from Japan because both the U.S. and Egyptian forces possess the same C-130 transport aircraft as the SDF. With regard to air traffic control, including take off and landing control, as well as military identification of friends and foes, "there are no factors whatsoever that might interfere with safety in the operation."

Arrangements will be made for the dispatched SDF officers to stay at hotels located in the vicinity of the airport. "Because the area will be under heavy guard, their safety can be well guaranteed," (says a senior DA official). If SDF officers are allowed to carry small firearms, it has been decided that the firearms will be used strictly for ensuring the security of transport aircraft—for example, in case of hijacking.

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ANNIVERSARY
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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-031
Thursday
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Japan

Kaifu, Nakayama Address Diet on UN Gulf Session

OW1402044491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] The Diet began intensive deliberations on various issues centering on the Gulf crisis during the lower house Budget Committee session today.

Foreign Minister Nakayama disclosed that Japan would ask for a chance to address the UN Security Council session scheduled for early tomorrow morning Japan time, and that Japan's appeal would call for forcing an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait so as to end the Gulf war as soon as possible.

Intensive deliberations on the Gulf will continue today and tomorrow. This morning, Dietman Hikaru Matsunaga of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and Dietman Yuzuru Shimasaki of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] took the floor for interpellations. During the session, Matsunaga stated that the government should clearly indicate its view that the Gulf war was started by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

[Begin Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's video recording] It is an unchanging principle that forceful invasions of nations by others should never be allowed. This principle must be observed as the common will of the international community and also as under the authority of the United Nations, as you have mentioned. Unless we force Iraq to reflect on its actions and withdraw its troops from Kuwait, the problem will never be settled completely. [end recording]

Moreover, when Matsugana stated that Japan must do its utmost diplomatically to effect an early conclusion of the war, Foreign Minister Nakayama said that Japan would make a special request for a chance to state its views at the official session of the UN Security Council scheduled to open at 0700 tomorrow Japan time. Foreign Minister Nakayama said:

[Begin video recording] Japan is not a member of the Security Council. However, we are scheduled to speak and state our views. We plan to state in strong terms at the session that as far as the Japanese Government is concerned, we feel that UN resolutions must be observed and that Iraq must withdraw its troops from Kuwait. Peace must be restored as soon as possible. [end recording]

Furthermore, Shimasaki of the SDPJ brought up the issue of the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces aircraft for refugee evacuation, saying that it is quite clear from the provisions of the law that transport of refugees cannot be included in the law. In reply, the director of the Cabinet's Legislative Bureau, Kudo, said that the law does not dictate the nature of objects to be transported; this can be set by government ordinance. He reiterated his view that there would be no problem with dispatching SDF aircraft for refugee evacuation by issuing a new government ordinance.

Kaifu on Iraqi Aid, Palestinian Issue After War

OW1402061991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, addressing Japan's role in the Middle East after the Persian Gulf war, said Thursday it is prepared to help rebuild damaged economies in the region, including Iraq's.

After the war is over, Japan must soon provide economic assistance to help nations that suffered in the conflict, and participate in international efforts to resolve the Palestinian question, Kaifu told a special House of Representatives Budget Committee session on the Gulf war. "Japan must actively help not only the economies that suffered, ...but also Iraq," Kaifu said, citing Japan's past history of economic assistance to Baghdad. Japan was Iraq's largest aid donor prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August 2. Kaifu noted that Iraq still owes Japan hundreds of millions of yen.

The prime minister said Japan also intends to take part in international discussions on overall peace in the Middle East, based on the principles of Palestinian self-determination, an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, and Arab recognition of Israel. But he reiterated that Japan rejects linking these issues to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. "First we have to break the deadlock (over Kuwait), then it will be appropriate to start discussions" on the Palestinian issue, Kaifu said in response to a question by Hikaru Matsunaga, a fellow ruling Liberal Democratic Party member. "To link all ancient historical issues would amount to neglecting the real problem," Kaifu said.

Kaifu made the comments one day after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov he is willing to cooperate with the Soviet Union to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf war, in conjunction with the Palestinian issue. The United States said a solution would have to start with Iraq quitting Kuwait.

Kaifu cited arms control as another area for Japanese participation in establishing peace in the region after the war. Referring to criticism at the outset of the crisis last fall that Japan's initial contribution was tardy and insufficient, he pledged to act promptly "to avoid being criticized for being too late."

Shortly after announcing a 1 billion dollar contribution to U.S. led multilateral forces in August, Japan announced a further 1 billion dollar contribution, as well as 2 billion dollars in economic aid, mostly for Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey. After the U.S.-led forces launched air attacks January 17, Japan made an additional 9 billion dollar pledge to assist the military.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told the session Japan plans to make a statement at a closed session of the United Nations Security Council, calling for an early end to the war. The 15-member Security Council is meeting Thursday in New York for the first time since the U.S.-led multinational forces launched air attacks against Iraq and Kuwait. Japan is not currently a member.

Former Minister Proposes Postwar Mideast Fund

OW1402135891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1329 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Prominent Japanese conservative politician Kiichi Miyazawa proposed Thursday establishing a Mideast fund to help stabilize the region after the Persian Gulf war ends, and said Japan should make an annual contribution of at least 1 billion dollars.

Miyazawa, a former finance minister, in a policy paper on stabilizing the postwar Middle East, voiced unwavering support for efforts by the U.S.-led multinational forces to destroy Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons capabilities. But he urged restraint in the expected ground war. Excessive civilian deaths or destruction of Iraq's political and military organizations would damage chances for a wider Middle East peace, he said.

Miyazawa, one of several senior Liberal Democratic Party politicians hoping for a term as party president and prime minister, made the proposals at a meeting of his faction as part of a four- point plan for the post-war order. The plan calls for setting up a United Nations Mideast peace conference to discuss a broad range of issues, including economic assistance, arms control, and relations between Israel and the Arab countries. Japan, which bans arms exports, should take the lead in proposing strict arms control measures, Miyazawa said.

After Kuwait is freed from Iraqi occupation, Miyazawa said, a peacekeeping force should be dispatched under United Nations command. He suggested the ground forces be made up mostly of Arab soldiers, with U.S. and British personnel taking part in naval and air forces.

Miyazawa, leader of the third-largest faction in the ruling party, is the first senior LDP politician to offer his vision for the postwar period.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said that after the war Japan should play an "assertive" role in economic reconstruction of the region, as well as in regional peace talks, and in setting up an arms control regimen.

USSR's Primakov 'Expected' in Tokyo 15 Feb

OW1402114391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO—Soviet Presidential Adviser Yevgeniy Primakov is expected to arrive in Tokyo on Friday for talks with Japanese Government officials, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

Primakov, a member of the defunct Presidential Council, will have a series of meetings with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama in the evening. The Soviet adviser will hold a press conference and meet with former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Saturday before leaving Japan on Sunday, officials said. Primakov was originally scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on Thursday to attend an economic forum, but postponed his arrival.

Primakov traveled to Baghdad on Monday as President Mikhail Gorbachev's personal emissary to seek an end to the Persian Gulf war.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told Primakov on Monday that he is prepared to negotiate a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf war, signaling readiness for peace talks for the first time since the January 17 outbreak of the conflict.

Soviet Envoy on Islands Dispute, Gorbachev Trip

OW1402110291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Kyoto, Feb. 14 KYODO—Soviet Ambassador to Japan Lyudvig Chizhov said Thursday that Japan and the Soviet Union remain wide apart in the dispute over four Soviet-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, so solving the issue will not be easy.

Chizhov told a press conference here that the two countries should consider the sentiment of the Soviet people, who oppose the return of the islands to Japan. He said the Soviet Union hopes to deepen relations of trust between the two countries and to promote talks aimed at concluding a bilateral peace treaty.

The decades-long territorial dispute is expected to be the main topic for discussions when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits Japan in April. The Soviet Union seized the islands, Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomais, immediately after Japan's surrender in World War II. Japan is calling for the return of all four islands along with signing of a peace pact to upgrade ties between Tokyo and Moscow.

The Soviet envoy was in Kyoto to participate in the first day of the two-day 29th annual Kansai Economic Seminar.

Chizhov said Gorbachev has been invited to visit some 10 places outside Tokyo during his April trip. Hokkaido, Niigata, Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki are among them. The invitations will be examined in making up Gorbachev's itinerary, he said.

Chizhov said an agreement on the joint development of oilfields in Sakhalin, just north of Japan, might result from Gorbachev's visit to Japan, the first ever by a Kremlin leader.

Asked about the Baltic republics, where movements for independence have been harshly suppressed by Moscow, he said it is a domestic problem and urged the Japanese to react calmly.

Requests Far East Economic Aid

OW1402024191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Kyoto, Feb. 14 KYODO—Soviet Ambassador to Japan Lyudvig Chizhov on Thursday requested help from economic groups in the Kansai area in the joint development of the Soviet Union's Far Eastern region.

Speaking at the two-day 29th annual Kansai Economic Seminar, held at the Kyoto International Conference Hall, the ambassador said the existing Japanese principle that "politics and economics are inseparable" is one of the aspects retarding the economic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Regardless of the territorial dispute over the four islands off Hokkaido, it is necessary to go forward with stronger economic cooperation between the two countries, he said.

Japan remains reluctant to give full-scale economic aid to the Soviet Union unless its demands are met for the return of the islands, which were taken by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

The seminar had a record attendance of 450 people, mainly economic and business leaders.

Nicaraguan President Chamorro Departs 14 Feb

OW1402064091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0615 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro left Narita Airport on Thursday, winding up a four-day official visit to Japan.

Chamorro had talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other Japanese leaders after arriving in Tokyo last Monday.

Nissan Announces Cut in Exports to U.S.

OW1402055291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Shrinking demand in the recession-hit United States has prompted Nissan Motor Co. to follow other Japanese auto manufacturers in slashing car exports to the U.S., its company head said Thursday.

Nissan President Yutaka Kume told a press conference the second biggest automaker in Japan will cut its shipments to the U.S. by 4,500-5,000 vehicles in March, though production levels at Nissan's U.S. plants will remain unchanged. "Auto demand in the U.S. is in a very severe situation," Kume said.

Honda Motor Co. announced in late January it was reducing production for the U.S. market by some 25,000 vehicles from January to March. Toyota Motor Corp. unveiled its cutback plan Wednesday for the March-May period.

With the Persian Gulf war hitting the already feeble U.S. economy, Nissan may be forced to prune its sales expectations in the U.S. beyond the end of March. "We see our business for the new fiscal year as rather bleak," Kume said. He said Nissan might review its spending on plants and equipment domestically and overseas for the current and next fiscal years. In fiscal 1990 to March 31, the company had envisaged 280 billion yen in such investment.

On the domestic market, Kume said sales for 1991, excluding minicars, will not reach the six million mark. Nissan's original target was 6.03 million vehicles.

France Lifts Import Restrictions on 6 Products

OW1302144991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO—The French Government has removed six Japanese product items from a list of 10 items it currently subjects to discriminative import quota restrictions, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday.

The six items are umbrellas, ceramic tiles, household ceramic ware, other ceramic ware, toys, and electronic measuring instruments.

Honey, fatty alcohol, vodka and distilled fruit liquor, and radio and television sets were left under restriction.

The Japanese Government has been negotiating with the French Government to lift the restrictions, which it argues violate the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The decision to lift the import control on the six items was taken voluntarily by the French, according to MITI officials.

Egypt Orders Thermal Power Plant

OW1302123491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO—A consortium of three Japanese companies has received an order for thermal power plant worth about 36 billion yen from Egypt, the first such deal since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the companies reported Wednesday. The group consists of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Toshiba Corp., and Mitsubishi Corp.

The companies said a basic agreement reached between them and Egypt's electric power authority calls for construction of a power plant with a capacity of 300,000 kilowatts at a site about 400 kilometers south of Cairo on a full turnkey basis. Some of the necessary equipment and materials will be procured from Egyptian suppliers, they said.

Key equipment, including boilers and peripheral devices, turbines, and electric wiring will be supplied by the three firms. The plant is scheduled to be completed in three to four years, the companies said.

They said a formal agreement is expected to be signed this month at the earliest after negotiations with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on terms of financing, including export insurance and loan conditions.

The three companies have been building a similar power plant in an adjacent area since 1989.

'Activists' Call For Shutdown of Nuclear Reactors

OW1302175391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Takamatsu, Feb. 13 (KYODO)—About 20 antinuclear activists visited the head office of Shikoku Electric Power Co. on Wednesday and called for suspension of operations of the two reactors of Ikata nuclear power plant in Ehime Prefecture, on the south central Japanese island of Shikoku.

The two reactors are the same type as the reactor at Mihama nuclear plant in the central part of the main Japanese island, where abnormal levels of radioactivity caused an emergency cooling system to shut down on Saturday in the worst nuclear accident to date in Japan.

The activists from Ikata wanted to hold a meeting with company executives in charge of nuclear power generation to hear their opinions about the accident at the Mihama nuclear power plant of Kansai Electric Power Co. in Fukui Prefecture on Saturday. However, officials of Shikoku Electric Power Co. refused the request, saying that the cause of the accident has not yet been determined.

The nuclear power plant opponents delivered a letter calling for an immediate suspension of operations of the No. 1 and No. 2 reactors of Ikata nuclear plant and the cancellation of construction of the No. 3 reactor. Kansai Electric Power Co. will hold a public hearing on the accident at its head office in Osaka on next Tuesday in response to requests from local residents, company officials said.

Kenjiro Ogata, chief of the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, called on the company to carry out a thorough investigation of the accident, the first nuclear mishap in Japan that required the activation of the emergency core cooling system to shut down the plant.

The Fukui Prefectural Government has said radiation released into the atmosphere during the accident will not cause any environmental problems.

Power Industry Concerned Over Electricity Supply

OW1302123691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO—The electric power industry expressed concern Wednesday that the recent accident at a nuclear power plant may result in an electricity supply shortage during summer when demand peaks.

The accident at the Mihama nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture may force electric power companies to halt pressurized water reactors (PWRs) currently in operation for simultaneous inspection. In such an event, industry officials said, output by some electric power companies is likely to fall short of demand during the summer as they would not be able to receive electricity supplies from other firms. Electricity demand is at its height in the summer due mainly to extensive use of air conditioners. Tokyo and Kansai electric power companies managed to meet the increased demand last summer caused by an unusual hot spell.

The industry officials said power companies will adjust the timing of reactor inspections to try to prevent a supply shortage. A total of 39 atomic power reactors with total output of 31.48 million kilowatts are currently in operation. PWRs number 17, accounting for 42 percent of the total power output.

Kansai Electric Power Co. covered a supply shortage caused by the accident at the Mihama plant by borrowing electricity from two hydroelectric facilities in nearby Hyogo and Nara Prefectures. The company received a supply of 5.81 billion kilowatt-hours or 4.7 percent of its capacity from Shikoku and Kyushu electric power companies in fiscal 1989.

Eiichi Nakao, minister of international trade and industry, told the lower house budget committee on Tuesday the ministry will request power companies to conduct safety inspections of pressurized water reactors before the summer.

1st Nuclear-Powered Ship Passes Safety Inspection

OW1402040591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0330 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO—Japan's first nuclear-powered ship, the Mutsu, was given a license certifying the safety of its reactor on Thursday, 22 years after its launch in 1969 and 17 years after it developed a radiation leak during its maiden voyage.

Science and Technology Agency Director General Akiko Santo handed a document certifying that the reactor had passed a safety inspection to Yoshinori Ihara, president of the Japan Atomic Energy Research institute, which operates the Mutsu. A separate certificate of ship inspection is to be issued by the Transport Ministry later in the day for the 8,242-ton vessel. The Mutsu will leave its base port in Sekinehama, Aomori Prefecture, on February 25 on an experimental voyage.

The ship developed a radioactive leak shortly after its 36,000- kilowatt pressurized water reactor reached criticality on its maiden cruise from the former base port of Ominato, Aomori Prefecture, in August 1974. Its reactor was shut down for repairs for 16 years until its restart in March 1990.

The Science and Technology Agency says data obtained in four offshore test runs between July and December last year show that the reactor can withstand severe vibrations to be expected on seagoing ships and would not measure abnormal levels of radioactivity even in full-capacity operation. It also said that no problems were to be expected with the nuclear fuel facility and the steam generator.

The government has to date disbursed 107 billion yen for the Mutsu.

North Korea

Pyongyang Radio Reports on North-South Talks

SK1402084991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Text] The fourth round of North-South sports talks to discuss and solve the issue of forming and participating as a single team in the major international games including the 41st World Table Tennis Championships were held in the South side area of Panmunjom on 12 February.

Present at the talks were the delegation of our side led by Kim Hyong-chin, vice chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee, and the members of the South side delegation. Kim Hyong-chin, head of the delegation, spoke at the talks.

He first expressed regret that a large-scale joint military exercise was being conducted against fellow countrymen in South Korea at a time when sports talks were in progress to discuss and solve the issue of participating as a single North-South team in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships.

Then the head of our delegation stressed that the two sides should completely settle at today's talks the pending problems in the formation and participation of a single team. He said that the most important thing here is for the delegates of both sides to try to understand the views of the other side, and then made our epochal proposal aimed at developing a single team.

First, referring to the order of the discussion of the formation and participation of the single team for the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and for the 6th World Junior Soccer Championships, the head of our delegation proposed that, as specified in the joint written agreement between the two sides, the two sides first discuss and settle the formation and participation of the single team in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and then discuss the formation and participation of a single team in the 6th World Junior Soccer Championships. He said that he thinks it fortunate that the South side agreed, though belatedly.

Second, he made clear our position on the pending issues concerning selecting and training the players and concerning the head of the sports team. He first referred to the issue of selecting the players and suggested that the players of the single team to participate in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships be selected through discussion by the table tennis single team working committee, and agreed to the South side proposal that the selection of the players of the single team to participate in the 6th World Junior Soccer Championships be discussed and decided by the single soccer team working committee based on the evaluation games in Pyongyang and Seoul with the players of the two teams combined and then divided into two teams. He proposed that the date of the elimination games be between the end of April, rather than March, and early May since it would be too early then for the grass of the soccer field to grow and in consideration of the situation created.

Referring to the issue of training the players, he explained that there is little time left for the players of the table tennis single team to train while traveling between the North and the South and proposed that the general training be done on the spot in Japan.

Referring to the issue of the head of the sports team, he made it clear that the consistent position of our side is that the leadership of the single team should be a joint-leadership system, but made a concession on this issue and agreed to the proposal that the head of the table tennis single team be filled by our side and the head of the junior soccer single team be filled by the South side.

Third, he clarified our position as to the formation and operation of the single team working committee for the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and the 6th World Junior Soccer Championships.

He expressed expectation that agreement will be reached without difficulty if some unnecessary items are deleted or modified since there is little difference between the proposal of our side for the formation and operation of the table tennis single team working committee and that of the South side. He also made it clear that he is willing to accept the South side proposal on the issue of a written agreement on the formation and operation of the junior soccer single team working committee provided that unnecessary contents are deleted and modified.

Fourth, he referred to the contents of the letter informing the international organizations of the participation of the two sides as a single team. He said that it is fortunate that a written draft agreement on the letter to the international organizations was made when our side proposed it, with the South side agreeing to it, in the third round of talks. He said, however, that in reviewing the draft letter put forward by the South side, he finds it difficult to determine whether the North and the South are participating in the two championship games as a single team and said that the problem is that the issue of the name, flag, and song of the single team—which are most important in the formation and participation of the single team—are not mentioned there.

Given such questions, if our side's proposal and the South side's proposal are compromised, there will be no particular problems. Thus, our side's head delegate hoped that a full agreement would be reached at today's talks.

Thanks to our side's considerable concessions, tolerance, and persuasion, both sides fully agreed on the question of forming a North-South single team to participate in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and in the 6th World Junior Soccer Championships.

In addition, both sides fully held the same views on the draft of the letter which will be sent to the International Olympic Committee, the International Table Tennis League, the International Soccer League, and the Asian Soccer League.

In addition, both sides discussed the clauses of the agreement on forming and operating the working-level committees for a North-South single team to participate in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and in the 6th World Junior Soccer Championships. They reached an agreement on this, too.

Because an agreement was reached on all the issues under discussion, our side's head delegate proposed that both side's head delegates arrange the clauses of the agreement and sign it.

The South side, however, argued that another working-level contact between both sides should be held on 22 February to arrange the clauses of the agreement, and that the fifth round of the full-dress talks be held around 25 February to sign the agreement.

Saying it would be much better to sign the agreement today and to announce the formation of a single team to the nation, our side asked the South side why it was postponing the arrangement of the clauses of the agreement. Our side's head delegate said that the South side's attitude reminds us that the South thwarted the agreement to field a single North-South team to the 11th Asian games on which the North and the South had agreed.

Because the South side could no longer resist in the face of our side's just and reasonable claims, it agreed to our side's claim that a working-level contact be held at 1400 [0500 GMT] yesterday to finish arranging the clauses of the agreement, and that both sides' head delegates sit down together to sign the agreement.

By so doing, at the working-level contact between both sides which was held beginning 1400 [0500 GMT] yesterday, the clauses of the agreement on forming a North-South single team to participate in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships; the clauses of the agreement to form a single North-South team to participate in the 6th World Junior Soccer Championships; and the clauses of the agreement to form and operate a working-level committee for forming a single North-South team for the two championships were arranged.

In addition, the draft of the letter which will be sent to the International Olympic Committee, the International Table Tennis League, the International Soccer League, and the Asian Soccer League was arranged.

The full-dress talks were resumed at 1700 [0800 GMT]. At the full-dress talks, both sides' head delegates confirmed the agreements arranged in the working-level contact. After this, our side's head delegate Kim Hyong-chin, and the South side's head delegate Chang Chung-sik respectively signed the agreements and exchanged them.

After they signed the agreements, both sides agreed to exchange the list of the working-level committees for the World Table Tennis Championships and the World Junior Soccer Championships on 18 February. Thus, it is agreed to hold the table tennis working-level committee meeting on 21 February and to hold soccer working-level committee meeting on 22 February.

It is also agreed to set the date, via telephone, for the 5th round of the talks to negotiate the question of holding soccer games for reunification regularly and the question of fielding a single North-South team to other international athletic events.

At the end of the talks, our side's head delegate strongly said that, for the first time since the nation was divided, the announcement to all fellow countrymen and to the world of the birth of a single team is both a happy event—like a reunification achieved in sports field—and an event which all the fellow countrymen hail as a festival for reunification.

Saying that the birth of a single team will be an occasion showing to the entire world that our nation is one and our country is one, he added that the 1990's will surely be a great encouragement to the entire nation who desire reunification.

Because both sides reached an agreement on forming a single team and on forming and operating working-level committees for a single team, our side's head delegate stressed that both sides reliably form and operate working-level committees at an early date. He added that if one side commits any act of creating a stumbling block, it should be denounced before the nation and for world opinion.

After the talks ended, our side's head delegate Kim Hyong-chin held a press conference.

Unified Team Welcomed

SK1402072991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—Ichiro Okimura, president of the International Table Tennis Federation [ITTF], said it is really marvelous that the North and the South of Korea agreed to form a unified team for the 41st World Table Tennis Championships to be held in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, according to NHK [Tokyo television network] on February 12.

Stating that he will promote preparations for sufficient training of the unified team in Japan, he said not only table tennis but also other sports events can contribute to peace as they encourage the meeting of people.

The 41st World Table Tennis Championships will be a historical one with the participation of a North-South unified team, he stressed.

NHK said that the man and woman paddlers of the North and the South of Korea have reached the world's standards and that when they participate in the championships as a unified team, they will make a strong claim for the title.

Continued Coverage of 459th Meeting of MAC

Third Report Issued

SK1402033691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0316 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] The 459th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is still in progress in Panmunjom. Addressing the meeting, Maj. Gen. Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side, is exposing the great obstacle that the aggressive Team Spirit war exercise is to peace and to the dialogue for reunification in our country. He said that reunifying the fatherland is the greatest long-cherished national desire of our people and a foremost task that cannot be put off even one year.

He continued: The good people of the world who deeply sympathize with the the pain that the Korean people suffer in national division, and who are deeply concerned about the constant danger of war on the Korean peninsula, ardently desire the settlement of peace on the Korean peninsula and the realization of reunification there.

The ice of confrontation and division which was frozen thick between the North and South began to melt recently, and a new chapter is unfolding in the history of the fatherland reunification movement. Last year, North-South high-level talks were held for the first time in the 45-year division, and the compatriots from various social strata met and had grand festivals of reunification. Reunification soccer games were held in Pyongyang and Seoul amid the enthusiastic joint cheering of the entire nation which yearns for reunification. Reunification songs rang out vigorously at the reunification concert halls with the ardent desire of the entire nation.

These festivals and the dialogue for reunification gave hope to our people—who were separated and have not known each other's whereabouts and have not been able to hear from each other—that the fatherland reunification will certainly come, enabling them to foresee the arrival of reunification. Anyone who is interested in peace in Korea and its reunification should treasure the hard-won North-South dialogue and should not engage in acts contrary to it. This is the elementary demand of human conscience and the demand of the times. Nevertheless, the United States is conducting the Team Spirit-91 war exercises with the South Korean authorities. This is a crime aimed at extremely straining the situation, inspiring North-South confrontation, and hampering North-South dialogue. The senior member of our side questioned how they could conduct Team Spirit war exercises at a time like this if they are not bent on aggression and war, ignoring the great suffering that our people feel from national division. He showed a videotape on our people's ardent desire for reunification and of the contrasting Team Spirit exercise. Noting that the war exercise is incompatible with dialogue, he continued:

Whereas dialogue is conducted to end distrust and confrontation and to achieve peace and reunification, the war exercises conducted by the U.S. side are necessary only for aggression and war. War exercises not only aggravate tension and increase the danger of war, but are an act of further deepening the distrust and confrontation between the two sides and threatening and negating dialogue itself. In fact, while war exercises are under way no dialogue can be conducted free from worries. Even if dialogue is carried on under such circumstances, success cannot be attained. This is the serious lesson learned in the North-South dialogues so far.

The senior member of our side noted that the U.S. side has turned away from this stern reality and clear truth and is conducting the aggressive Team Spirit-91 war exercises, revealing its filthy position on peace, reunification, and dialogue on the Korean peninsula. He stressed that the U.S. side should discard the anachronistic war policy and immediately stop the aggressive Team Spirit-91 war exercises. The senior member of our side said that this is in conformity with the trend of the times for detente and negotiations and with the U.S. assertions that it welcomes North-South dialogue and contact.

The meeting continues.

Fourth Report Issued

SK1402043791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0345 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] The 459th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is now being held in Panmunjom.

At the meeting, our side cited the Armistice Agreement stipulating that any hostile act against the other side should be stopped and that the introduction into Korea of armed forces should be ceased. Our side is repeatedly demanding that the U.S. side stop the Team Spirit-91 war exercise at once.

Arguing that the issue of the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise is not a matter to be discussed in MAC meetings, however, the U.S. side continues to avoid discussing it.

Major General Choe Ui-ung, our side's senior member, denounced such a U.S. attitude as an improper act of avoiding its due responsibility as stipulated in the Armistice Agreement. He went on to say:

If the U.S. side was sincere and concerned about relaxing tension on the Korean peninsula and about the North-South dialogue, it would have duly stopped such an aggressive war exercise. Particularly this year, considering the prevailing situation and the situation of the North-South dialogue, the Team Spirit joint military exercise should be stopped without fail. Now, even with the Team Spirit war exercise, the situation should never be driven to the edge of a war again and North-South relations should never be returned to confrontation. Therefore a measure to prevent a grave consequence, which could result from a large-scale war exercise, should be discussed at today's meeting.

In arguing that the issue of stopping the Team Spirit joint military exercise is not a matter to be discussed in the MAC meeting, the U.S. side is avoiding discussing it. Thus, as a new method to settle the issue, our side's senior member proposed to the U.S. side that the following recommendation be presented to the relevant government authorities in the name of both sides of the MAC: Because such a large-scale military exercise like Team Spirit—conducted in an unstable state of armistice on the Korean peninsula with highly armed forces confronting each other along the Military Demarcation Line—will further aggravate tensions, increase the danger of war, and be a grave obstacle in the way of North-South dialogue which is developing favorably, both sides of the MAC recommend that North and South Korea and the U.S. Government sit down together at an early date and negotiate the cessation of large-scale military exercises on the Korean peninsula.

Even though the U.S. side argues that because the issue of military exercises is not a matter related with the armistice and should not be discussed in the MAC meeting, our side's senior member said that there is no reason for the U.S. side to refuse to accept our proposal that the relevant government authorities negotiate this issue. He said that we expect the U.S. side to positively respond to our proposal.

The meeting goes on.

Wrap-up Report Issued

SK1402115091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0100 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] The 459th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] was held yesterday in Panmunjom at our side's request.

At the meeting, our side strongly protested to the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for conducting the Team Spirit joint military exercise again this year in flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement, thus extremely straining the situation on the Korean peninsula and creating a grave obstacle to North-South dialogue, and also asked the enemy side to be held responsible.

All the Korean people and the world's peace-loving people thought that, in conformity with the situation on the Korean peninsula which is heading toward detente, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets would not conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year.

Contrary to such expectations and hopes, however, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are conducting the aggressive Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise. This is an unbearable challenge to our sincere efforts for detente and is also a crime hampering peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

Referring to the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, which the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets started, Major General Choe Ui-ung, our side's senior member, pointed out: This year in particular, we regard the Team Spirit war exercise as grave. This is because the Team Spirit exercise is conducted under circumstances in which a warlike atmosphere has been created across South Korea.

From the beginning of this year, the U.S. side, by mobilizing a large number of fighters, has continuously conducted aerial war exercises designed to attack us, thus artificially straining the situation.

On 3 January, the U.S. side introduced into South Korea a number of military planes of various types from the U.S. air bases in the Pacific and conducted a joint military exercise together with the fighters of the South Korean forces. A total of 540 fighters were mobilized in the exercise. Such a war exercise has been constantly conducted from the beginning of this year.

In particular, some time ago the U.S. side declared an emergency wartime system in South Korea under the pretext of the war in the Gulf. The U.S. and South Korean forces have been made ready for an emergency mobilization situation.

At this moment, a large number of U.S. forces and ultramodern war equipment have been introduced into

South Korea. Still worse, a large-scale war exercise has been conducted with the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of troops.

So far, the Team Spirit joint military exercises have been conducted on 16 occasions. However, the Team Spirit joint military exercise was never held under the grave warlike atmosphere that can be seen all across South Korea today.

We regard this year's Team Spirit war exercise as grave because it is being conducted at a time when North-South dialogue has reached a very important stage.

The North-South high-level talks have been held between the North and South, and the question of adopting a nonaggression declaration has been put on the agenda.

In addition to the success last year, the government of our Republic put forward a new epoch-making proposal to turn this year into a year of detente and peace, a year of reconciliation and unity, and a historic year opening a new phase of national reunification.

As is already known, at the 12 February North-South sports talks the question of forming a single North-South team was fully agreed upon. This is the first such occasion in our history since our country's division. Thus, this gives great pleasure to the entire Korean people.

This notwithstanding, the U.S. side is conducting the aggressive Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise running counter to the North-South relations which are developing favorably. Thus the U.S. side is trying to put the North-South dialogue into a grave crisis once again. This can only be a very grave problem.

We can only regard the Team Spirit-91 war exercise as grave because it is being conducted under the circumstances in which preparations for a war of aggression have already been completed in South Korea. Through the Team Spirit war exercises which have been conducted from 1976 up until now, the U.S. side has finished preparations for provoking a war of aggression. This is no secret.

Through these exercises, the U.S. side has finished its plan and preparations to rapidly introduce into the Korean peninsula the enormous U.S. forces and ultramodern equipment in the U.S. mainland and in the Pacific region. In addition, the U.S. side has decided on a plan to invade the North which consist of nuclear attacks, a large-scale amphibious landing, and aerial strikes.

A war does not always break out under specific circumstances. If a military exercise—which is conducted on land, at sea, and in the sky with the mobilization of a large number of military forces and modern striking means—develops into a military operation attacking the other side, there will be a war. Furthermore, in our country where enormous armed forces of both sides stand in acute confrontation along the Military Demarcation Line, a war can easily break out with a small accidental event.

In the 20 days since the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise was announced, the U.S. side has perpetrated approximately 1,500 military provocations around the Military Demarcation Line, including shooting at our side. This is also very serious.

Our side's senior member denounced the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, which the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique started, as an unbearable challenge to our people, as a flagrant violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and as a crime that destroys North-South dialogue and peace; our side strongly demanded that the U.S. side immediately suspend the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise.

Rather than giving assurances that it would suspend the large-scale nuclear war exercise, however, the U.S. side tried to justify their crime while uttering that this exercise is defensive or that its scale has been reduced.

Our side's senior member personally showed a recorded video tape of the process of the Team Spirit war exercise to the enemy side. He also strongly refuted the U.S. side by saying: The Team Spirit war exercise is being initiated and promoted according to the aggressive Asia and Pacific strategy of the United States. The Asia and Pacific strategy of the United States is an aggressive strategy to dominate and subordinate this region through force.

The primary purpose of the United States is to invade our Republic. Large sums of money and strength have been spent, and this year they are pushing to carry out the 16th Team Spirit joint military exercise.

During this war exercise, the United States is giving special significance to the combined forces' air transportation and air drop, formation and deployment, and status, and is concentrating on completing this kind of exercise.

The Team Spirit war exercise which is being carried out with these aggressive demands can only be an offensive exercise.

In this Team Spirit joint military exercise a large-scale force have been deployed which is 200,000 strong and includes the vast U.S. forces stationed in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region, battleships, a flotilla of aircraft carriers, fighter-bombers loaded with nuclear weapons, missiles, tanks, armored cars, and various other ultramodern means of war.

Various nuclear weapons and means to transport nuclear weapons, including Lance missiles, were brought in especially; these are the major armaments. This is data which the U.S. side itself had announced. As seen, the Team Spirit war exercise is an act of war where enough forces and nuclear attack means to carry out a full-scale war are mobilized.

When viewing the current situation of the Gulf war, it is all the clearer to see for what purpose the up-to-date weapons and military equipment—which are being mobilized every time the Team Spirit joint war exercise is being held—will be used in the future on the Korean Peninsula.

The important parts of the Team Spirit joint military exercise include the sea landing operations; ground attack operations; river-crossing operations; commando unit operations; and strike operations by aircraft squadrons.

In the ground attack operations exercise, the United States side is using strike means, including the Lance missile, to carry out strikes at the depth of the counterpart and is carrying out exercises to increase attacks.

In the sea landing operations exercise, the United States side chose the Pohang region as the place for training because it has a similar topography as that of the coast of the northern half of our Republic, and is carrying out exercises of landing at the counterpart's coast; maintaining a base of operations; and attacking at the depth of the counterpart.

Why is the United States holding landing operations and ground attack operations even though they are saying that they are holding a defensive exercise?

It is a fact that the U.S. side itself has already admitted that the Team Spirit war exercise is aggressive and offensive training. During the 1987 Team Spirit war exercise, Livsey, former commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea, said that they would attack deeply into the core of the North; a former person in authority in South Korea said that the past training had been passively carried out for the purpose of defense in the past and that the exercise now became offensive training based on the offensive operations.

Our side's senior member emphasized that all facts clearly show that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is not defensive training but that it is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war to invade the northern half of our Republic. He also said that even the United States side is babbling as if the scale of the exercise has been reduced, and that this is a mere deceptive trick to conceal the aggressive and dangerous nature of the exercise. He also said that the world's people know very well that, even though last year and the year before the United States side tried to change the opinion of the world's people to think that the scale and time have been reduced, in reality the scale and time have instead been increased.

Using the recorded video tapes and other materials, our side's senior member graphically exposed the Team Spirit war exercise as posing a big obstacle to achieving peace in our country and her reunification. He again demanded that war commotions immediately stop in favor of North-South dialogue and peaceful reunification.

Then the U.S. side's senior member tried to refrain from discussing the Team Spirit joint military exercise, alleging that this issue cannot be discussed by the MAC.

Referring to the enemy's sophistry, our side's senior member said that the mission of the MAC is to prevent the danger of a new war on the Korean peninsula and to help peacefully and terminally solve the Korean problem. He also said: Subparagraphs 13c and 14d of the Armistice Agreement stipulate that the introduction into Korea of reinforcing military personnel cease.

After bringing in massive forces from outside of Korea, the U.S. side is conducting a war exercise designed to invade the opposing side. Under these circumstance, how can it allege that this exercise is not a matter that can be handled by the MAC? This is a shameless act of refraining from fulfilling its due responsibility as stipulated by the Armistice Agreement.

He also said that appropriate measures must be taken to prevent grave consequences that may arise from the war exercise. Because the U.S. side insists that the issue of suspending the Team Spirit joint military exercise cannot be discussed by the MAC, he proposed that, as a new solution and in the name of the two sides of the MAC, the following recommendation be presented to the relevant government authorities:

Letter of recommendations to the government authorities concerned: Considering that such large-scale military exercises as Team Spirit—staged in an unstable state of armistice on the Korean peninsula and with huge armed forces confronting each other on both sides of the Military Demarcation Line—further aggravate the tensions, increase the danger of war, and lay a grave obstacle in the way of North-South dialogue which is developing favorably, the sides to the MAC recommend the North and the South of Korea and the U.S. Government to sit down together at an early date and negotiate the matter of stopping large-scale military exercises on the Korean peninsula.

This is the letter of recommendations which our side presented.

The U.S. side's senior member, however, did not accept even our reasonable and just proposal. Our side's senior member said that such a position and attitude by the U.S. side clearly shows that it is trying to fulfill its aggressive goals by conducting such war exercises as the Team Spirit exercise, rather than trying to solve issues through negotiations.

He went on to say: Today's meeting has led us to think many things. Our first serious conclusion from today's meeting is that the peace issue and the military issue must first be resolved to provide conditions for peace on the Korean Peninsula and her peaceful reunification.

The high-level talks and various other forms of North-South talks and humanitarian exchanges and travels are today in a situation in which they may be again suspended all at once because of the Team Spirit-91 war exercise. This means that the peace issue and the military issue must first be resolved in our country where the danger of war exists and that dialogue, mutual visits, or reunification will not be achieved if the military issue is not resolved. One must first fend off hidden daggers to hold dialogue and exchange, and the issue of removing the danger of war must first be resolved, too.

It is very clear that if a nuclear war breaks out in reality in our country, even the existence of the nation will be threatened, to say nothing of dialogue, exchange, or reunification. A nonaggression declaration must be signed by the North and the South at the earliest possible date.

The second serious conclusion from today's meeting is that the United States and the South Korean authorities must discard their wrong positions for peace on the Korean peninsula and her peaceful reunification.

Contrary to the hope and expectations of our people and the world's people that it would prevent North-South confrontation and would rescue dialogue by not conducting the Team Spirit war exercise, the U.S. side again started this war exercise this year as it previously did. Also in today's meeting it maintained its position that it would continue its war exercise and refused our proposal recommending that relevant government authorities discuss the issue of suspending large-scale war exercises. This shows that they pay no attention to either North-South dialogue or reunification in the first place.

Frankly speaking, the U.S. side has the only so-called peaceful transition strategy to obliterate the North's socialist system. It is the only one with foolish ambition for realizing reunification by prevailing over communism even by resorting to its policy of strength when its so-called peaceful transition strategy does not work.

To create an occasion for guaranteeing peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula, the United States and the South Korean authorities should take a correct stand toward dialogue, peace, and reunification. In addition, they should give up their anachronistic ambition for reunification by prevailing over communism.

In conclusion, our side's senior member said that even though we love peace, we never beg for peace; even though we do not want a war, we are never afraid of war. He sternly warned as follows: The future of the North-South dialogue depends on whether or not the U.S. side will continue to conduct the Team Spirit-91 war exercise.

If the U.S. side forces the aggressive Team Spirit war exercise and thus forces the North-South dialogue to rupture, they should be held entirely responsible.

The United States and the South Korean authorities should not misjudge the will of our people and the Korean People's Army. They should look straight at reality and act with discretion. If they do not stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise, regardless of our just demand, we can look on such a situation with folded arms.

Our revolutionary armed forces and all the people will watch, with keen revolutionary vigilance, over the U.S. aggressive act of conducting a large-scale nuclear war test on the Korean peninsula, coinciding with the real war in the Gulf. In addition, we will strongly cope with the reckless war racket with due self-defendant measures.

During the meeting, an approximately 20 meter-long photo, which shows that the Team Spirit joint military exercise cannot be compatible with the North-South dialogue, was displayed outside the meeting site. The photo drew attention of reporters at home and abroad and those participants there.

They said that it is too evident that the Team Spirit war exercise should stop for peace on the Korean peninsula and for the North-South dialogue.

U.S., South 'Grave Military Provocation' Reported

SK1402071291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0509 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific naval command on February 12 sent formations of A-6 assault planes based in Atsugi, Japan, to the sky above Kunwi for an aerial war exercise aimed at mounting a long-distance surprise attack on ground targets in "case of emergency", according to military sources.

On the same day, the U.S. Pacific airforce command sent a Guam-based KC-135 tanker to the sky above Tokjok Islet to stage a war exercise for a mid-air refuelling of formations of HC-130 and MC-130 special operational planes from the Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

The U.S. imperialists that day brought formations of C-130 transport planes loaded with a large number of aggressor troops and combat equipment to be hurled in the criminal "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises into the Osan airfield from their aggressive bases in the Pacific and deployed them in the operational zones.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppets on February 12 mobilized many infantry and motorized infantry units, artillery and tank units in Uijongbu and Tongduchon in an offensive exercise simulating a war against the North with the support of F-16, F-4, F-5 and OA-10 and other fighter-bombers and observation planes, more than 80 in all.

On the same day, the South Korean puppets openly staged a landing exercise for long hours with combatant ships in the sea off Kangrung with the support of formations of F-5 fighter-bombers. And they frantically staged a parachuting exercise for in-depth infiltration into the Northern half of Korea in the sky above Seoul and Suwon with the mobilisation of formations of C-130 transport planes carrying "commandoes".

The number of the planes mobilized in aerial war exercises in the sky above South Korea totalled more than 630 on February 12 alone.

Between February 12 and 13, the South Korean puppets committed a grave military provocation against the north by wantonly firing shells of various calibres from Paegnyong Islet on several occasions at the extension of the Military Demarcation Line on the sea.

Workers Hold Meetings To Denounce Team Spirit

SK1402110791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 14 Feb 91

["'Team Spirit 91' Under Fire"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—Meetings denouncing the adventurous "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers are going on throughout the northern half of Korea.

Speakers at the meeting of employees of the Taean heavy machine complex said that the joint military manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers have placed our country in a grave situation which may lead to a nuclear war and that the U.S. imperialists staged a joint exercise for a surprise nuclear air strike at the northern half of Korea for hours a few days ago.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists intend to start a war against the northern half of Korea after massing huge armed forces under the pretext of joint military manoeuvres, the speakers said this shows that "peace" and "termination of the cold war" advertised by them are a lie and what they seek is a war against the North.

The speakers at the meeting of employees of the Hwanghae iron and steel complex said that no matter how desperately the U.S. imperialists may try to unleash a new war, they can never attain their aggressive goal. They strongly demanded that the U.S. imperialists immediately stop the criminal joint military exercises and withdraw from South Korea, taking along all their aggression forces including the nuclear weapons.

The speakers at meetings held at the Pyongyang steel factory, the Samsin coal mine and the Ullyul mine noted that the U.S. imperialists and their stooges are advertising the "curtailment of the scale" of the aggressive joint military manoevures, describing it as an expression of their "good faith".

They stressed that No Tae-u, instead of showing sincerity in dialogue with fellow countrymen, is running wild in the aggressive war game against the dialogue partner for the purpose of forcing South Korea's military fascist dictatorial system on the northern half of the country with the backing of outside forces.

The speakers called on all Koreans in the North, South and overseas to turn out as one in the struggle to smash the new war provocation moves of the South Korean ruling group.

No Tae-u Cited for 'Suppression' of South Media

SK1402073291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—No Tae-u on February 12 strongly criticized the press, complaining that it is going too far in attacking the "president", according to a report.

This is obviously a protestation of the man driven to the wall by the strong denunciation by the press branding the privileged distribution of the housing lot in Suso district, Seoul, that lashed the South Korean people into fury, as a large-scale scandal of the "Chongwadae" clan.

The complaint of the Chongwadae boss against the press literally reminds us of a thief crying "stop the thief". It is a threat to the press which is trying to disclose truth.

In talking about the "freedom of the press", No Tae-u sought to conceal the suppression of it by his group. And his threat to the press revealed the intention of the fascist maniac to tightly gag the press aspiring after democracy.

The progressive press of South Korea will never tolerate repression by No Tae-u going against the times.

Soviet, Other Military Attaches Visit Art Studio

SK1402062391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—Military attaches of different embassies here visited the Mansudae Art Studio on Feb. 13 on the occasion of the holiday of February.

While being briefed on the fact that the studio has been developed into a combined artistic creation centre under the wise guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, they went round recreation rooms and exhibition hall.

The Soviet military attache, who is doyen of the military attaches' corps, said that through the visit he came to know well about talents of the Korean people. He wrote in the visitor's book that all works created by Korean artists with high zeal and technique successfully represent in an artistic way history of Korea and its today and tomorrow.

Vice Foreign Minister Meets German Visitor

SK1402075291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0533 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu Thursday met Peter Schaller, representative of the office of interest section for the Federal Republic of Germany to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Matters of bilateral relations and mutual interest were discussed on the occasion.

Kim Il-song Receives 700 Messages of Goodwill

SK1402050291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received more than 700 New Year's cards, congratulatory messages and letters on the occasion of the New Year from party and state leaders, high-ranking officials, political parties, public organizations, chuche idea study groups and friendship and solidarity organizations of some 130 countries on the five continents of the world and from international and regional organizations.

The New Year's cards came from party and state leaders of more than 80 countries including China, the Soviet Union, Cuba, Vietnam, India and Angola, and from figures of various social strata of Mauritius, Sweden, France, Japan and many other countries and international and regional organizations.

The messages came from party and state leaders of many countries including Thailand, Iran, Mali, Sudan, Egypt, the United States and Canada.

Messages and letters came also from high-ranking officials, political parties, public organizations and chuche idea study groups of over 100 countries including Lebanon, Switzerland, Panama, Greece and Austria and from international and regional organizations.

Yasir 'Arafat Sends Flowers to Kim Chong-il

SK1402110291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received a floral basket and a congratulatory message from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Ambassador of the state of Palestine to Korea Mustafa al-Safarini today called at the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and handed them to Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C., the WPK.

Problem of Continuity of Party Leadership 'Solved'

SK1302072091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 13 Feb 91

[NODONG SINMUN 13 February special article: "Continuity of Party's Leadership Is Basic Guarantee for Revolution's Victorious Advancement"]

[Text] Our party is now victoriously advancing the socialist cause under the banner of the chuche idea. On this road, our party has performed immortal feats and our revolution is making a long drive taking advantage of victory.

It is thanks to our party's brilliant solution to the question of inheriting the leadership that the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is now vigorously advancing along a single-track road leading to victory.

In the course of a long and arduous but glorious struggle, our party has come to enjoy lofty honor and authority as a matured and tested party energetically leading the people to the consummation of the revolutionary cause under any storm or tribulations, as well as a great guide successfully carrying out serious social changes and colossal construction projects. For our people, it is unrivaled honor and happiness to explore the future of socialism and communism under the leadership of this great party.

1. Ours Is a Great Party Which Brilliantly Inherits and Develops the Chuche Revolutionary Cause Pioneered By the Respected and Beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il-song With Its Tested Leadership

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: By nature, the revolutionary cause of the working class is the revolutionary cause of the party. In our country, the chuche revolutionary cause has traversed a proud road replete with victories and glories under the guidance of our party and it can be ultimately consummated in the future only under the guidance of our party.

The revolutionary cause of the working class pioneered by the leader [suryong] can be made to advance and consummate only by the continuity of the party leadership. The invincible nature and future of this cause depends on how to resolve the question of inheriting the party leadership.

Where the revolutionary cause of the working class is to be realized based on the historical continuity, the party leadership should also be inherited from generation to generation. The continuity of the party leadership is the basic question that determines the fate of the revolutionary cause of the working class and socialist cause. The history of the communist movement shows that only when the party of the working class is solidified and developed from generation to generation, will the revolution advance and consummate itself without experiencing pains or deviations.

The continuity of the leadership in the building of the party of the working class is, primarily, an issue of solidifying and developing the party so that it can consummate the revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader from generation to generation.

In essence, this is a work whose aim is to invariably defend the revolutionary nature of the party and solidify and develop the party as the party of the founder and the leader. Only when the party is solidified and its leadership role is endlessly enhanced so that it can remain boundlessly loyal to the leader [suryong]—who has founded the party of the working class and pioneered the revolution—and to brilliantly inherit and develop the leader's cause, will the revolutionary cause be consummated to the end.

So the inheritance of the party leadership is an important job since it is designed to solidify and develop the party of the working class with an eye set on its future and to victoriously advance the revolutionary cause. Herein lies the reason why the party of the working class and the communist revolutionaries concentrate so much effort on firmly ensuring the continuity of the party leadership in party building for the purpose of consummating the revolutionary cause.

The issue of building the party with an eye set on its future, and of firmly ensuring the continuity of its leadership, has been brilliantly solved in our country so as to make it inherit and consummate the chuche revolutionary cause explored by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: Regarding the inheritance of the party leadership as the most important question in consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class from generation to generation, based on the inevitable demand of our era's developing revolution and historical lesson drawn from the international communist movement, our party has brilliantly solved it both in theory and practice.

The WPK is a party of continuity that has come through an arduous but glorious history and expects a more eye-dazzling future. That we have built a tested party which, after pioneering the Korean revolution brilliantly, has led it on a straightforward road without experiencing the slightest deviation and vicissitudes, a party of continuity which is capable of consummating our party's revolutionary cause from generation to generation, means a great victory for the Korean communist movement and our party building.

It has been a long history of nearly 65 years since our party began to place its historic roots, and of 45 years since its founding. On this long and glorious road, the true Korean revolutionaries and people tirelessly have struggled to build a powerful and mighty revolutionary party under the guidance of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Our party, which is now equipped with invincible and ever-victorious capabilities and leadership, is a fruit of this historic struggle.

In the course of a long and arduous struggle, our party has been solidified and developed as an experienced party full of militant verve which constantly leads the revolution and construction to victory overcoming all manner of storms and difficulties, as well as the tested staff office of the Korean revolution enjoying the absolute support and trust of all the people.

Today our party has reached a high level unheard of in terms of its organizational and ideological solidness, and of its might and leadership ability.

The party's political and ideological cohesion and purity has been firmly guaranteed, and the entire party has purely inherited a monolithic ideology and leadership. This is thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who has led the work of realizing the issue of inheriting the party's leadership with an eye set on its future in the long course of founding, solidifying, and developing the party.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song above all has provided the deep and durable historical roots for our party during the era of the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. The roots of the party are the historic source of its founding, its inheritance, and its development. So the continuity of the party's leadership depends primarily on the solidness of its roots.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, laying down the lines for the founding of an independent party during the dawning period of the Korean revolution, energetically has led the struggle for their realization by closely linking them to the overall anti-Japanese revolutionary struggles.

Thanks to the leadership as such, the Down-With-Imperialism Union [DIU]—a true communist revolutionary organization, the first of its kind ever formed in our country—came into being; party organizations appeared for the first time in our country; and a struggle for founding a revolutionary party was vigorously staged. The formation of the glorious DIU and the appearance of the first party organization prove that the true Korean revolutionaries and people had continued their struggle for a long time, over half a century, with their own strong historic roots and party organizations under its guidance.

While expanding the party organizations across the country after the pattern of the first party organization, the great leader established the leadership system of the party organizations to ensure a unified leadership over them and then actively pushed ahead with the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the work of founding the party organizations. As a result, the struggle for founding a revolutionary party in our country began an independent journey along a unique road from the beginning and has transformed into a bloody struggle, staged with arms in hand, that survived a life-or-death crisis and cut its way through the enemy's ranks.

The Korean communists solved everything, ranging from each one of the lines and policy laid down for the founding of a party to raising up of its core members and grass root party organizations and guidance over them, on their own and on the strength of their own faith. In this way, our party's lineage was provided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on a pure basis and has hardened in the course of staging a long but glorious struggle. This great chuche lineage is a lasting treasure that keeps our party alive.

Under the energetic guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party center, the work of building the party with an eye set on its future has been actively carried out in our country, thereby making it possible to inherit the party's revolutionary nature and leadership.

Our party has been solidified and developed without interruption amid the flames of decades of difficult struggle as a party with continuity. In the struggle to build, solidify, and develop the party, the realization of the cause of founding the party is just the beginning of the cause. To endlessly solidify and develop the party into an indomitable party with continuity is destined to be a long, difficult, and complicated struggle, so much so that it is impossible to compare it with the cause of its founding.

The 45-year history of our party's solidifying and developing was a proud chronicle during which our party has solidified and developed as a new type of party, a party with continuity by inheriting the chuche lineage provided already during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

By adhering firmly to the revolutionary fundamental rules and principles of party building, and by completely embodying them in party building and party activities in the past, our party has been able to pioneer a new road of party building and to solidify and develop itself as a mighty party with continuity as it is today.

The expansion of the party ranks, and its organizational and ideological solidification, was significant in the struggle for party building and for solidifying and developing it. The solidification of the party ranks is an indispensable condition for building the party with an eye set on its future. As our party came into being as a ruling party, expanding and solidifying of the party ranks were very pressing. Proceeding from such a call, the great leader laid down unique lines for organization designed to build our party as a mass-oriented party and formed a unified party of the working masses by merging the Communist Party with other parties of the working people.

In this way peasants and working intellectuals, along with the working class, have become the composing elements of our party; a new type of party mark emblazoned with a scythe, hammer, and brush begin to emit its ray before the world.

Our party's historic struggle to organizationally and politically consolidate the party ranks has been a struggle for unity and cohesion. The organizational unity of the party ranks can be achieved only through the struggle against all manner of splittist elements, including factionalism. Penetrating the vicious scheme of the anti-party, counterrevolutionary factionalists in a timely manner, our party has unmasked and crushed it by mobilizing the party organizations and party members. In this struggle, our party has abrogated the dirty factional remnants historically handed down, strengthened the organizational and ideological unity of the party ranks even further, and firmly realized the cohesion of the Korean communist movement.

What is of particularly weighty significance in strengthening and developing our party into an invincible party with continuity is the fact that the work of firmly deepening the organizational and ideological foundation of the party has been brilliantly achieved. Building the foundation of the party is not only the principled demands which arise in the party building by the working class, but is also the key question in inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause. Therefore the party of the working class should grasp this work as a constant work and consistently push ahead with it.

In our party, this cause has been pushed ahead long since with an eye to the future under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. As a result, the cause of building a powerful, weighty, promising party has been successfully achieved in our country. This is the most precious success and the greatest pride achieved in building our party. Our party's organizational and ideological foundation, which can consummate the revolutionary cause of chuche to the end, has been more firmly strengthened amid the historic march for modeling the entire party after the chuche idea under the leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. Modeling the entire party after the chuche idea is a new high stage in the work of establishing the party's unitary ideological system. It is also a prerequisite to model the whole society after the chuche idea.

To more firmly strengthen the party's organizational and ideological foundation, it is imperative to constantly strengthen the work of establishing the unitary ideological system of the party, and thus to firmly guarantee unity of ideology and leadership in the entire party. Guaranteeing unity of ideology and leadership is the basic principle to firmly build the party organizationally and ideologically, and to strengthen and develop the party's unity and cohesion. The history of the communist movement shows that there can exist only one ideology in the party, and that the party cannot achieve genuine unity even though it forms one organization, nor can the consistency in its ideology and action be guaranteed if various different ideologies exist.

Our party firmly has grasped and vigorously pushed ahead with the struggle to realize the work of ideologically dyeing the entire party based on the chuche idea. The work of establishing the unitary ideological system of the party has been further strengthened amid the rewarding march to realize the modeling of the entire party after the chuche idea. As a result the party is full of only the chuche idea, and based on this the party ranks' cohesion of ideological will has been strengthened by all means. At the same time, the core force of the revolution which can consummate to the end our revolutionary cause has been firmly built, the work of establishing the party's leadership system has been successfully carried out, and unity of ideology and leadership has been firmly guaranteed in the entire party.

In particular, the new revolutionary work system—under which the entire party moves as one according to the principle of democratic centralism and under which the party's decision and instruction are unconditionally implemented—has been established, and the party's political leadership in the revolution and construction has been smoothly realized. Today our party has the outstanding appearance as the party of chuche type in all aspects, ranging from its character and ideological system to the unity, organizational spirit, and disciplinary character of its ranks; its work method and work style; and its ties with the masses. This tells us that our party has been strengthened and developed into a party with continuity which can defend its chuche-oriented character forever and consummate our revolutionary cause to the end.

Our party, which has brilliantly added luster to numerous years since it took its roots in the period of the Down-With-Imperialism Union, is now accelerating a vigorous march to fly the flag of victory on the high hill of socialist construction of the nineties. Our party is the party founded by the great leader, and is victoriously advancing the revolution and construction by firmly inheriting and developing its cause. Because of this, our party is highly demonstrating the honor as the great guide and resolute defender of the socialist cause.

The greatness of the party is precisely the greatness of the helmsman. The party can enhance its militant capability and leadership role and brilliantly realize the question of its leadership inheritance only when it holds its great helmsman in high esteem. The future of the party and the revolutionary cause, and the bright future of the people, depend on the greatness of the helmsman. The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] is today highly demonstrating the might as the party which has brilliantly realized the question of inheriting leadership. This is because our party holds the great helmsman in high esteem.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the outstanding leader of the party building cause who has strengthened and developed our party into a promising party with continuity. Because of the existence of the wise leadership of the great leader and the party center which have constantly strengthened the party's militant capability and leadership role by creating the unique ideology that the party leadership is the lifeline of the socialist cause, our party has become the tested guide that has brilliantly solved the question of inheriting leadership, and the revolutionary cause of chuche has been constantly inherited and consummated.

The history of the WPK which is advancing forward, holding the great founder, the great leader in high esteem in the head of the party, will also in the future shine forever as the history of the promising party with continuity.

2. As Our Party, Which Has Invincible Might and Leadership Ability, Leads the Revolution and Construction the Firm Guarantee For Inheriting and Consummating the Revolutionary Cause of Chuche Has Been Provided in Our Country

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In our party the question of inheriting the revolutionary cause has been satisfactorily solved. The leadership body of the party has been firmly organized so as to inherit our party's ideology and leadership, its organizational and ideological foundation has been firmly deepened, and the leadership system of the party has been firmly established. This is the brilliant success and the great victory achieved in building our party.

Today, boundlessly promising prospects have been unfolded on the future path of our party which has brilliantly embroidered its long history of over half a century with proud victories. The bright future of our party lies in the fact that it has the invincible leadership ability that can inherit and consummate the revolutionary cause of chuche under any difficult circumstances. In our party, the foundation which can firmly inherit its blood lineage and consummate the revolutionary cause in a responsible manner has been firmly built. In our country, socialism has continuously and victoriously advanced without the slightest degree of faltering. This is because our party is powerful and the question of inheriting the party's leadership has been brilliantly realized.

Today, our people have great pride and honor over the fact that they are accelerating the revolutionary cause of chuche under this great party's leadership. The invincible leadership ability of our party in inheriting and developing the revolutionary cause of chuche has been firmly guaranteed precisely by the party's guiding ideology—the chuche idea. The basis in building the party with continuity is the inheritance of the guiding ideology, because the guiding ideology is the lifeline which influences the party's might and leadership ability.

To correctly realize the question of inheriting the party leadership, it is imperative to resolutely defend the party's guiding ideology and to purely inherit it. Of course, the party's guiding ideology should be constantly developed and consummated as the times and the revolution advance. No matter how the circumstances and conditions of the revolution may change, however, the revolutionary principle elucidated in the party's guiding ideology cannot change. If a change takes place in the party's guiding ideology, such a party will lose its original appearance and cannot perform its leadership role for the revolution.

Our party is the revolutionary party which has been built, strengthened, and developed with the chuche idea as its guiding ideology. Our party has become the ever-victorious party with the most solid foundation, unique history of development, great achievements, and noble experiences because it is resolutely defending, inheriting, and developing the chuche idea. That our party is advancing the cause of socialism without the slightest degree of vicissitudes and holding aloft the banner of the revolution after pioneering the most correct road of party building in the era of independence is because it carries out party building and party activity, taking the chuche idea as its guiding ideology.

The chuche idea is the life of our party and is the source of its peerless driving force and combat capability. Our party has concentrated great effort on realizing the work of modeling the party ranks after the chuche idea based on the chuche-oriented party building principle and has achieved a proud success in this. On the strength of the protracted arduous struggle to establish the unitary ideological system of the party, the ideological purity of our party has entered an incomparably high plane. The entire party is full of the chuche idea, and the system of the chuche idea has been firmly established in the entire party.

All party members and working people take the chuche idea and its embodiment—the party's ideology and theory—as their firm faith, and think and act based on this. Thus, our party has become a body of ideological purity in which the entire party is armed with one ideology, the chuche idea, and unanimously breathes and moves with the chuche idea. Precisely herein lies the source of the invincible leaderhship ability of our party and the bright future of the cause of chuche.

The invincible leadership ability of our party also finds expression in the fact that the firm leadership system which can guarantee the unity of the party's leadership has been firmly established in the entire party. Establishing the party's leadership system is the important requirement for enhancing the party's combat capability and leadership role, and for defending the political and ideological cohesion and purity of the party ranks. Our party not only has strengthened the work of establishing the unitary ideological system of the party, but has also vigorously pushed ahead with the work of establishing the revolutionary work system which makes it possible to thoroughly realize the party's leadership in the entire party. As a result, the revolutionary work system and discipline, which can firmly guarantee unity of the party's leadership, have been established in our party.

All party work and party activities are thoroughly carried out under the guidance of the party center, and all party organizations and party members unanimously move according to one organizational principle, work system, and discipline. All party organizations and party members with lofty loyalty to the great leader and our party center think and act only according to the party's intent and are displaying the indomitable fighting spirit of carrying out any tasks without fail if they are the demands of the party and the revolution.

The intent of the party Central Committee is passed on smoothly to the lower echelons, and all work in all fields—political, economic, cultural, and external—is consistently carried out thoroughly as a struggle to implement the party's line, policy, decision, and directive. This means that our party is the mighty party which has the revolutionary leadership system in which it upholds the great leader and can brilliatly realize the leader's ideology and leadership.

Our party's indestructible leadership is also firmly ensured by the brilliant inheritance of the chuche revolutionary tradition. The revolutionary tradition is the historical source that guarantees the inheritance of the party's leadership. The party which inherits the great revolutionary tradition is unshakable in any adversity and can invariably adhere to its revolutionary nature and purity and keep on with its life irrespective of the passage of time.

Our party's glorious revolutionary tradition is the chuche tradition which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song made pioneering the independent road of the Korean revolution. This tradition is the most valuable tradition in which the noblest revolutionary spirit is exerted under the most difficult conditions; in which the party's guiding ideology, guiding theory, and guiding method are comprehensively embodied; and which comprehensively contains the noble achievements and experiences created and accumulated over the entire historical period of the revolutionary struggle.

As the revolutionary tradition is brilliantly inherited and developed under our party's leadership, our party and the revolution have an endlessly bright future. Our party put forward the issue of inheriting the revolutionary tradition as a fundamental issue connected with the fate of the revolution and with the completion of the socialist cause, and sees to it that all the contents of the revolutionary tradition—which have been made, developed, and enriched over the protracted period of time since the beginning of the revolution—are inherited comprehensively.

Thanks to our party's fundamental position with regard to the revolutionary tradition and the struggle to inherit and develop it, our revolutionary cause is making a vigorous advance with only one historical root, the chuche revolutionary tradition.

Undauntedly fluttering at the head of our party today is the banner held aloft by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters in the Paektu forest long ago. The socialist banner held up by our party is the chuche revolutionary banner held aloft by the Down-With-Imperialism Union, and our party's indestructible unity and cohesion are the inheritance of the unity and cohesion and the strengthening and development of the anti-Japanese revolutionary ranks. The indomitable revolutionary spirit, the spirit of self-reliance, and the revolutionary work ethos which overflow the country are the brilliant embodiment of the Paektu revolutionary spirit and the work ethos of the anti-Japanese guerrilla unit. This shows that the chuche revolutionary tradition is inherited and developed purely generation to generation.

The proud reality in which the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition is brilliantly embodied and comprehensively inherited and developed gives our people great pride and self-respect that their party can invariably adhere to its revolutionary nature and brilliantly inherits and completes the chuche revolutionary cause.

Our party's indestructible leadership is firmly guaranteed by the inheritance of the wholehearted unity around the great leader. The inheritance of the party's leadership and the inheritance of its unity are connected in one. Unity is the source of the party's might and its leadership. As the party's leadership should continue with historical inheritance, so should the party's unity continue without stopping. Therefore the struggle to build an inheritance-oriented party is, after all, achieved by realizing the most solid unity and firmly maintain it.

When unity is adhered to and inherited, the issue of inheriting the party's leadership is brilliantly solved and the victorious advance of the revolution is achieved. The key to inheriting the party's unity is to firmly ensure the center of the unity. Only when the center of unity is firm, can the entire party membership and all the people firmly unite around it generation to generation and accelerate the revolutionary cause with the might of the wholehearted unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks.

In our country today the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the people are all the more firmly solidified. Our party's great wholehearted unity is the indestructible unity and cohesion which inherited and developed the tradition of the unity realized at the initial period of the Korean revolution. The noble loyalty of the anti-Japanese revolutionaries who upheld the great leader as the center of unity and the center of leadership, and defended and implemented the leader's idea and line at the cost of their lives, now lives in the hearts of our party members and people who uphold the party center.

Our party's unity and cohesion are the most solid ideological and voluntary unity. All the people achieve ideological, volitional, moral, and fidelity-oriented unity based on the firm revolutionary outlook of the leader and noble revolutionary comradeship. In our country today, all the people—from the old revolutionaries who pioneered the long road of the revolution following the great leader, to the new generation which has been brought up in the party's bosom—become the fortress and shield in defending, protecting, and upholding the party center. Because there are millions of party members and people firmly united around the party, our party's leadership is brilliantly inherited.

Truly, there has never been a time in the long history of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] when our party has had a more magnificent and bright future than today when we are following the refined leadership of the party center. Today our party's might in remaking society in a revolutionary manner and advancing the revolutionary cause is extraordinarily great, and its leadership has been exceedingly strengthened. Now our party is victoriously advancing and completing the chuche socialist cause under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural. In our country today, the chuche idea is resolutely defended and adhered to and the socialist cause of our own style is making brilliant progress. This is the clear proof of our party's indestructible might and leadership. Today's history which is wrought by the WPK is the history of proud victory that victoriously advances the chuche revolutionary cause by brilliantly solving the issue of inheriting the party's leadership. In this glorious course of advance, our party has received the absolute support and endless trust of all the people and has come to have high authority and dignity as the great guide of the socialist cause. When our people think of the victorious advance of the chuche revolutionary cause and the most superior socialism of our own style, they warmly cherish the immortal achievements and leadership of the great leader and our party center that have strengthened and developed our party as an indestructible inheritance-oriented party and a great guide of the socialist cause.

Vigorously struggling to complete the chuche revolutionary cause by upholding the party's leadership is the most honorary and worthwhile work of our people.

Along with the party's leadership, the revolutionary cause is being advanced and completed through the people's lofty loyalty and devoted struggle to uphold it. The people's lofty loyalty and indomitable struggle spirit are a driving force in advancing the revolutionary cause.

The whole course of the Korean revolution was a proud course in which the revolutionaries and the people upheld the great leader's leadership with loyalty, pioneered the course of the revolution, and victoriously advanced it forward.

That lofty loyalty and struggle spirit, which were highly manifested while traveling the sea of blood and flames and fighting the way through the swampy road by following the respected and beloved leader, must be brilliantly inherited in the struggle to complete the chuche revolutionary cause according to the great party's leadership.

Just like the late anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, we must have an absolute loyalty as well as a clear view of the leader and outlook on life of moving toward the one road, even if the road pointed out by the party and the leader is a road of mountains and swamps. This will thus make us devote our lives to achieving the party's cause.

The great party's leadership as well as the lofty devotedness and indomitable struggle of the popular masses to uphold it with loyalty which are deeply rooted in the popular masses—here lies the source of might in which we can overcome any kind of hardship or trial and can brilliantly inherit and complete the chuche revolutionary cause.

Currently we are faced with the honorary task of bringing about a great upsurge in the revolution and construction by highly upholding the leadership of the party and the leader.

In the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address, he put forth a task of further highly displaying the superiority of our country's socialism by vigorously accelerating the socialist construction according to the demand of our developing revolution and brilliantly revealed its method.

All the party members and workers must highly uphold the great leader's New Year address, and by achieving a new upsurge in the socialist construction they must wholly display the honor of the chuche Korea and must elucidate our party's history as a proud feat.

A proud tradition of our party and the people is that they were able to brilliantly realize the party's cause by overcoming hardships and trials through the strength of the single intent unity.

Amidst the party members and workers we must further firmly establish the chuche ideological system; firmly deepen the whole party and the whole society's political and ideological unity centering on the party center; and with the might of the single intent unity, must accelerate the revolution and construction and highly display the superiority of the socialism.

Amidst the long road of the revolutionary struggle, our people's revolutionary enthusiasm of highly upholding the great party's leadership which brilliantly realized the inheritance issue of the leadership is higher than ever before.

In the party's leadership our people are looking at their bright future; as long as the party's leadership exists, they are overfilled with the victorious faith of completing the chuche revolutionary cause without fail. Our party members and people must always bear in mind this faith and will, and in whatever difficulties they must move forward only according to the party center. Our party's history will be elucidated as an honorary history in which it endlessly inherits and completes the chuche revolutionary cause.

Workers' Party Holds Symposium on Its 'Greatness'

SK1402061491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—A national symposium was held at the People's Palace of Culture on February 13 to make a deep study of the greatness and undying feats of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

Speeches were made at the symposium on the subjects "It is decisive guarantee for victory of our revolution for the whole party and entire people to remain loyal to the party's leadership, firmly rallied behind dear Comrade Kim Chong-il", "Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea of meeting essential demand of man in social development is ideological and theoretical basis of advantages and invincibility of Korean-style socialism", "Great guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in strengthening and developing our party into an invincible revolutionary party devoted to the people" and "The reply letter sent by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to party members of the second cell of Department No. 5 of the Korean Central News Agency is historical event demonstrating kindred singlehearted of our party and people".

The speakers stressed that it is thanks to the outstanding and tested leadership of the party that the Korean people have been able to cover a straight road of victory in the revolution and construction and are bringing about uninterrupted advance and upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction and demonstrating the advantages of the Korean-style socialism pulsating with a worthwhile life and filled with revolutionary stamina.

They said that to uphold the party's leadership with loyalty is a decisive guarantee for the victory of the Korean revolution.

For the whole party and the entire people to uphold the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty, firmly united behind the WPK, is a lawful course along which the driving force of our revolution is being carried forward and strengthened at a new higher stage of the developing revolution when the whole of society is being modelled on the chuche idea, and herein lies a decisive guarantee for the victory of the Korean revolution, the speakers noted.

Pointing out that Comrade Kim Chong-il has strengthened and developed the WPK into an invincible party devotedly serving the people, they stressed: What is important here is that he saw to it that the party, taking it as its nature and mission to serve the popular masses, has thoroughly applied the serve-the-people slogan.

The historical reply letter of Comrade Kim Chong-il to the members of the second party cell of Department No. 5 of the Korean Central News Agency reflects the deep trust and love of him who places revolutionary soldiers in the most dignified position of life and our party's conviction of sure victory and iron will to accomplish the cause of independence of the popular masses and the cause of socialism.

The speakers stated that Comrade Kim Chong-il takes responsibility for the political integrity of his revolutionary soldiers to the last and adds lustre to it with a high sense of boundlessly noble revolutionary obligations and comradely love.

When all the people remain loyal to the party's leadership the Korean revolution can adhere strictly to the revolutionary principle of chuche and powerfully advance along the road of great victory on the basis of correct strategies and tactics, the speakers said, and called upon all the people to arm themselves more thoroughly with the ideas and theories of the WPK and uphold the party and the leader with loyalty and filial devotion.

Daily Urges Upsurge in 'Socialist Construction'

SK1402103291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 14 (KCNA)—All the party members and working people should work greater miracles and feats in socialist construction, deeply cherishing great pride and honor in making revolution under the leadership of the great party, stresses NODONG SINMUN in an editorial today.

The source of the strength of our people in dynamically pushing ahead with socialist construction with firm conviction of victory lies in the leadership of the great party, it says.

It quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Today our party maintains the blood ties with the people and enjoys unreserved support and confidence of people of all strata, and our people entrust their destiny entirely to the party and fight on without vacillation along the road indicated by it."

Our people keenly feel the greatness of our party and the sagacity of its leadership through the proud reality of the development of the party and revolution and are overflowing with great pride and honor in advancing under the leadership of the party.

All the party members and working people should work greater miracles and feats in socialist construction, deeply cherishing the great pride and honor of making revolution under the leadership of the great party.

The party members and other working people should, above all, deeply cherish the great pride and honor of making revolution with correct scientific lines and policies indicating a straight way of building socialism.

Our party put forward correct lines and policies of building socialism reflecting the requirements of our revolution and the desire of the people and is successfully carry them into realisation.

All the lines and policies of our party constitute a correct guiding compass in accelerating socialist construction and providing the people with a more affluent and civilised life.

The source of invincibility of our revolution and firm guarantee for a steady promotion of socialist construction lie in that the entire people resolutely defend the lines and policies of the party and carry them into brilliant reality, cherishing them as their faith.

The party members and other working people should have a higher pride in having solid foundations and potentials to accelerate the cause of socialism and achieve greater prosperity of the country and the nation and consolidate it more firmly.

Our party has built a most superior socialist system of our style and laid solid foundations of an independent socialist national economy and strong potentials of production in this land under the banner of the chuche idea.

In our country grand construction has been undertaken in accordance with the line of building a self-supporting national economy, with the result that powerful heavy industrial and light industrial bases have been built and huge production foundations and potentials created.

With these firm assets our people are able to carry the cause of socialism to completion and bring about the heyday of national prosperity to this land without the slightest vacillation in any circumstances.

The editorial calls upon all the party members and working people to give full play to the revolutionary spirit of implementing the lines and policies and decisions of the party and thus effect innovations in the creation of the "speed of the 90s" in their respective domains and at their respective posts, and actively follow in particular the model of intense loyalty of the members of the second party cellp of department No. 5 of the Korean Central News Agency and all the members of the Korean literary production to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il so that it may come into full bloom as a trait in the whole society.

South Korea

Restrictions Eased on Korean Ships Sailing Gulf

SK1402025191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP)—Ships registered in South Korea no longer need permission from the Korean Government to sail to ports in the United Arab Emirates, Iran and the east coast of Qatar, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration said Thursday.

Korean-flag ships are now free to sail through waters in the Persian Gulf east of 52 degrees east longtitude, but must notify the government before crossing west of the line, it said.

This affects ports in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and west Qatar.

North Noncommittal to 18 Feb Liaison Talks

SK1402113591 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Choe Pong-chun, the North side's responsible liaison official for the North-South high-level talks, this afternoon sent a telephone notice to Kim Yong-hwan, our side's responsible liaison official. In this message, sent in response to our side's proposal to hold a North-South contact of liaison officials on 18 February, he said that he would make a reply at an appropriate time.

In our 11 February telephone notice sent to the North, our side proposed discussing the itinerary of our delegation to the fourth North-South high-level talks which are scheduled to start on 25 February in Pyongyang, and other matters. Because the two sides of the North and South had agreed that the itinerary of the delegation and other practical matters must be settled five days before the high-level talks start, the practical matters concerning the fourth high-level talks must be settled before 20 February at the latest.

Daewoo Strike Ends With Union Demands Being Met

SK1402024891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Changseungpo, South Korea, Feb. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—Strikers at Daewoo Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery, South Korea's second largest shipyard, ended a six-day walkout Thursday morning after agreeing on a new labor contract with management in an overnight negotiation.

Management accepted union demands for annual bonuses totalling six months pay and for long-service allowances in their 26th round of the collective bargaining, and 50 strikers ended a protest sit-in atop the yard's goliath crane.

Daewoo President Pak Tong-kyu represented the company and union chairman Paek Sun-hwan led the union negotiators. Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Group, visited Koje Island to meet with union leaders in an effort to get the talks moving, but did not take part in the negotiations.

Management also agreed to consult the union before disciplining workers, wrapping up four months of collective bargaining over 132 points with the solution of the final 20.

The new contract will be voted on by the union membership Feb. 19 after a four-day lunar New Year holiday, and work may resume Feb. 20.

Some 10,000 workers at the shipyard went on strike Feb. 8 to call for a bigger say in personnel affairs and bigger bonuses.

Abuse Suspected in Interrogation of Housing Chief

SK1402013391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] The housing bureau chief of the Construction Ministry is suspected of being physically abused during prosecutors' interrogations on whether he received bribes or outside pressure in connection with the Suso housing scandal.

Yi Tong-song, 48, was admitted to Ewha Womans University Hospital at noon Tuesday after receiving an overnight interrogation by prosecutors.

He was one of the government officials who had been interrogated by prosecutors over an alleged preferential grant of housing lots in the Suso district to the housing company.

His face, neck and hands showed traces of hypodermal bleeding resulting from outside pressure, said Doctor Choe Yong-man who treated him.

The doctor said that he needed about ten days of treatment, adding that the result of an X-ray examination will determine his exact symptoms.

As his admission to the hospital was made public, the ranking official was discharged from the hospital at 10:30 p.m. on the same day and Doctor Choe also denied making earlier statement.

Before leaving the hospital, the official told reporters that he had never undergone any atrocities during the prosecutors' interrogation.

Yi said he sustained injuries on the face and hands after being hit by photographers' cameras.

PPD Suspects NSP in Lawmaker's Disappearance

SK1402013491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] The Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] yesterday raised suspicions that the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) was behind a 14-hour-long disappearance of Chong Tae-su, chairman of the Hanbo business group.

Pak Sang-chon, spokesman of the major opposition party, said, "Rumors have it that Chong was forced to make a statement befitting a certain scenario at the NSP in connection with this case (the Suso land scandal)."

The intelligence institution promptly denied the allegation, saying, "The NSP is not in a position to interfere in the case."

At 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Chong left Hanyang University Hospital where he had been admitted in the morning and disappeared until he reported to prosecutors at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Chong is suspected of having provided politicians and government officials with large bribes to obtain the goahead for his project to build apartments in the Suso area.

The PPD spokesman added, "Prosecutors have to uncover clearly where Chong had been."

Pak also suspected, "The prosecutors seem to be limiting the probe at Chongwadae (presidential office) to presidential secretary Chang Pyong-cho, while putting the spotlight on politicians."

He demanded that prosecutors explain why they have not questioned former presidential chief of staff Hong Song-chol, who sent an official letter to the Seoul City administration asking for favorable consideration for Hanbo; Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Yi Sung-yun, who supported Hanbo in a party-government policy meeting and senior presidential secretary for economic affairs Kim Chong-in, who allegedly made a phone call to Rep. O Yong-un, chairman of the House Construction Committee, should also be interrogated, Pak said.

Kim Tae-chung's Presidential Strategy Examined

SK1402065691 Seoul SINDONG-A in Korean Jan 91 p 208-219

[Article by Kim Chae-hong: "Kim Tae-chung's Strategy for the Presidency in 1993"]

[Text] "Ever since 1963, I have asserted that local autonomous government must be implemented in this land. The two axes of democracy are the National Assembly and local autonomy. The local autonomy system was obtained through the resignation and subsequent four-month extra-parliamentary struggle by all members of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD]."

Kim Tae-chung entered a meeting with the press held in the PPD president's office on the morning of 5 December 1990 looking relatively cheerful as he subsequently gave great significance to his future political efforts. At the time, working-level negotiations between the ruling and opposition parties concerning the voting methodology for the local autonomy election were entering their final stages.

"If there had been a local autonomy system before, then Yun Pom-son would have been elected in the 1963 presidential elections and I would have subsequently won in 1971."

Although one can sense it in statements such as these, it is also the general perception as well that Kim regards the local autonomy system as a major stepping stone in his presidential strategy. Of course, Kim himself offers the following refutation of such views:

"I first advocated adopting the local-autonomy system at the time of the Sixth Assembly. At that time, I was in no position to even think of the presidency."

Kim asserts that he demanded the local autonomy system as a basic principle of democracy under the assumption that should the system be implemented, it would be more difficult for the authorities to intervene and bring about fraudulent presidential or general assembly elections. The result, according to Kim, would be political development for the common good of the people rather than an advantage to any one select individual. More than this general significance of the local autonomy system, however, Kim is anticipating a more positive significance of the system in planting the roots of an opposition party.

It is also true that the local autonomy system will probably act as a stepping stone for PPD President Kim to attain his goal of the presidency. It is generally accepted that the local autonomy election may possibly allow Kim to mitigate or even overcome many of the obstacles which are blocking his becoming president. President Kim believes that should city mayors and country magistrates face a vote, then they could not manipulate the will of the people better than administrative bureaucrats. Can the implementation of the local autonomy system, therefore, be viewed as the culmination of Kim's strategy for becoming president?

The PPD is optimistic that should the local autonomy election be held, then they would win in the Honam region, Seoul, and Inchon. Even third parties find such optimism acceptable. However, in the larger remaining regions—that is in Yongnam, Kangwon, South and North Chungchon, and Kyonggi Provinces—the possibility is almost non-existant that the PPD will be able to plant their flag there. The implementation of the local autonomy system is not necessarily related with an expansion of the PPD's support base. The barrier of regionalism prevents this from happening.

The Key to Overcoming Regionalism

President Kim's strategy for becoming president must focus on overcoming regionalism. It is noted that President Kim himself is also acutely aware of this fact and is working in that direction. In the supplementary elections held in early November 1990 in Yongkwang and Hampyong in South Cholla Province, Yi Su-in—who had no regional affiliation—was nominated and elected depending solely on the party's power. Yi's election is more understandable in the context of Kim's goal of overcoming regionalism.

Even at the time of this Yongnam person's nomination, this move was viewed as risk-defying "fresh shock." All PPD assemblymen and their wives, however, were mobilized in an all-out telephone campaign in overseeing the campaign process. This further highlighted the background behind Yi's nomination. In one word, the supplementary election was an opening skirmish of the 1993 presidential elections and an experimental first round of fire in breaking down regional barriers.

There was no particular reason for the voters in the Yongkwang-Hampyong election to cast their vote for a total stranger. This being the case, President Kim proclaimed during his campaigning: "This supplementary election is not a personal struggle between the candidates, but instead is a confrontation between the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the PPD, between No Tae-u and Kim Tae-chung." He appealed to the voters there: "I know that your hopes rest upon the 1993 presidential election. By electing the candidate from the Yongnam region, let us convince those in Yongnam, Kangwon, and South and North Chungchon Provinces to vote not based on region but based on an evaluation of the persons and parties involved."

It is a fact that much party energy was consumed in making just one person the standard-bearer for the PPD in the Yongnam region. Is it possible for Yi Su-in, whom the PPD worked so hard to get elected, to form a PPD bridgehead in his home area of Taegu Kyongsangpuk-to region? Right now, negative opinions of this possibility prevail.

If so, then what is President Kim's new prescription? There are many of the opinion that Assemblyman Yi, in order to create a stronghold for the PPD in the Yongnam region, must form a group centered around himself on his own. That group will emerge rallying around the anti-DLP powers who hope for a transfer of power to the opposition party. In other words, the consolidation of opposition forces is yet another pillar of President Kim's strategy to become president.

Up until now, there are five places among the directly administered cities and provinces where the PPD has not yet established branches. These include Taegu, Kyongbuk, Kangwon, and South and North Chungnam. That is, these vulnerable non-Honam regions continue to pose a problem for the PPD three years after the emergence of the Sixth Republic. Although there is a branch office of the PPD in Pusan and Kyongnam, their support base there is really weak. The PPD strategy of raising a yellow flag in these seven vulnerable areas will probably be pursued as one of the outstanding issues facing the party in 1991.

The weapon to be used by the PPD in its attempt to cultivate this new territory begins with the opposition party consolidation. It is likely that efforts toward the union, which had been making slow progress, will liven again before the local autonomy election. When a consolidation of opposition parties which ties together all the anti-DLP and critical forces in these seven vulnerable regions is attempted, the PPD expects to employ their huge popularity through the realization of their right to nominate candidates in the local autonomy elections.

When the negotiations between the ruling and opposition parties within the assembly over the local autonomy election law reached their pinnacle, President Kim commenced his full-fledged concept of promoting the formation of a united opposition party aiming for the presidency in preparation for the general election of nationwide regional assembly. Although the local autonomy system came into being through the efforts of the PPD, it is not a reward which only the PPD can enjoy: local autonomy has been one of the mutual objectives of the opposition camp for the past thirty years. The PPD plans to justify their capitalization on the system by saying that a pan-opposition democratic forces must jointly participate.

There is no mistake that in Seoul, in the four directly administered cities, and in the nine provincial assemblies the assembly elections are a formidable challenge to the opposition assemblymen. The right of nomination for this election, which will put forth some 900 up-and-coming politicians, is sufficient to cause a change in perception of the opposition circle. Additionally, although the parties are excluded from nominating candidates in city, county, and district assembly elections, they will be able to exercise their influence there indirectly.

The biggest authority which the opposition party presidents actually have is the right to nominate candidates in the elections. There are many of the opinion that President Kim has placed primary emphasis on his demand for the implementation of the local autonomy system since the emergence of the Sixth Republic in order to expand this authority.

In meetings such as the talks held at the Chongwadae between the four party presidents in December 1989, President Kim made numerous concessions on items concerning the liquidation of Fifth Republic issues, persistently sticking only to the local autonomy system. Kim demanded the local autonomy system with the same importance he placed on Chun Tu-hwan's testimony, Chong Ho-yong's resignation, and the Kwangju Struggle Compensation Law, while giving less importance to charges and indictments of other Fifth Republic figures or reformist legislative issues. Even at that time, politicians who thought that the local autonomy system was essential were extremely rare. It is widely known that during the Chongwadae talks President Kim demanded the implementation of the local autonomy system to President No Tae-u, and even during a protracted argument over the system the other two opposition party presidents Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil did not even say one word. While this appeared to be because there was no consensus at the time on the theoretical significance of the local autonomy system, it is also true that this was the general atmosphere then.

Within the context of President Kim's consistent insistance on the local autonomy system, his demands can be interpreted as coming from a recognition of the practical political usefulness rather than from the theoretical significance of the system. The system will result in a new authority for the opposition party president through his ability to nominate candidates in the local autonomy elections. This is what is meant by the realistic usefulness of the system.

The Nationwide Local Autonomy Election Campaign As an Opportunity

Using this newly acquired strength, President Kim has come to promote a pan-opposition consolidation. PPD lawmakers have already begun to put out feelers, asking: "Is there not some kind of a whirlwind arising among the opposition calling for a consolidation?"

In place of the term "opposition consolidation" [yagwon tonghap] President Kim began to use the term "pan-opposition consolidation" [pomya tonghap]. That is because Kim felt extremely disillusioned with the tug-of-war which broke out with the Democratic Party [DP] under the name of opposition consolidation since May 1990 when the Tongju meetings of dissident figures accepted the midwife role in the merger.

It appears that, in President Kim's heart, any thoughts of forming a party with personnel of the DP, including party president Yi Ki-taek, have nearly disappeared. It is said that in talking about DP President Yi, President Kim has already gone beyond saying "he lacks political resolution" or "he does not maintain his fidelity or promises," to calling him a "wicked person."

President Kim, in comments directed at President Yi recently, stated: "His greatest chance was at the 21 July 1990 gathering at Poramae Park. He should have made a decision at that time to continue to pursue the fervor of such mass politics."

The mass rally condemning the surveillance of civilians by the Defense Security Command [DSC] opened in mid-October while President Kim was in the middle of his hunger strike. Kim, who had intended to ride in the ambulance and attend the rally, ended up not appearing. There was no way his physicians and advisors could send him on that day, the sixth day of his hunger strike, with his symptoms of low blood pressure and dehydration.

The crowd began to repeatedly call out "Kim Tae-chung" while they jeered the other speakers. These people, who had come to hear Kim's speech, were extremely disappointed by his absence and showed their anger. When Choe Yong-ho stepped to the podium in place of President Kim, the crowd hurled rocks and cans at the rostrum and refused to listen to him speak. They were demanding Kim Tae-chung. It is known that some of the party's ardent members even included staged performances here as well in order to encourage the feverishness of support for President Kim.

Mass rallies attended by President Kim always attract a given number of people. Because of the mass appeal he maintains, wherever he goes there will always be a basic number of spectators. Compared with this, the ability to mobilize crowds commanded by the DP lags significantly behind. In other words, when an event is held based solely on the organizational mobilization of President Yi or the DP, then it can never approach the scale of an event like the Poramae Park rally. Within the fever of the opposition consolidation talks and the criticism of the DSC, President Yi's political strength is judged to have grown greatly while he received a "free ride" on a mass political stage which was, in reality, created by President Kim.

As they returned from the Poramae Park rally in mid-October, President Yi's party was attacked by a group of citizens in the vicinity of Norangjin. It is not known who was behind the attack. Criticism flew back and forth between the two parties over this incident. The general interpretation was that President Yi was inconsiderate and rash in his behavior, which included riding in an open parade at the public rally which was organized with the influence of President Kim.

Concerning this incident, President Kim commented: "It is impossible without a certain degree of confidence to ride in an open vehicle without any special guard at a mass rally of hundreds of thousands of people. The crowd loves me. One can only pursue the blessing of such gatherings under the belief that, should any incident occur, the crowd would listen to only my appeals for calm."

As one can gather from this statement, Kim's strategy for the presidency will depend on using his talents in mass politics through public rallies such as these more than any other strategy. Even during recent negotiations over the local autonomy election law, attempts were made to limit election activities by political parties by claiming: "We must prevent such activities as supporting speeches by those other than residents of the electoral district in question." The PPD opposed this, saying that the ultimate objective of this was to prevent President Kim from making his nationwide campaign stumps. As is the case with the National Assembly elections, the compromise on the election law allowed meetings for the restructuring of political parties as well as meetings to strengthen party unity.

Within these limits, President Kim will step forward in campaigning throughout the country during the period of the local autonomy elections. In fact, this campaign can be seen as the start of his public speeches conscious of his own challenge for the presidency in early 1993.

Abandoning His Vested Rights and the Opposition Consolidation

Among the three groups who discussed the opposition consolidation, DP President Yi and Kim Kwan-sok, senior representative of the Tongju Association, have resigned since May 1990 while taking responsibility for the failure of the merger.

Although the resignation of senior representative Kim is seen as a simple reflection of his true intentions, some individuals in the Tonggyodong camp point out that in the case of President Yi, one must be cautious of the fact that his resignation may have had some ulterior motive. That is, there is the view that Yi's resignation could possibly be an attempt to drag President Kim down with him by transferring some of the blame for the failure of the negotiations to Kim Tae-chung. Regardless of whether or not this was the intention of the DP camp, however, opinion on the failure of the opposition party consolidation has avoided placing any blame on President Kim.

In fact, President Kim is believed to have yielded many points during discussions over the merger with the DP. That is because Kim was cognizant of public opinion calling for an opposition consolidation. Not only that, but Kim Tae-chung was the one who had to be most mindful of public opinion that the failure to field a single candidate in the December 1987 presidential election resulted in the failure of a democratic change of regimes. Within such internal circumstances as these, Kim was most acutely sensitive to public opinion, and owing to that was able to avoid blame for the failure of the merger.

Through the process of discussions over the opposition consolidation between the three groups, the PPD clearly made epochal concessions on several occasions. Among these, President Kim continuously demonstrated his effectiveness in pursuing a future pan-opposition consolidation through such concessions as intending to change the party name, adopting a collective leadership system, and consenting to a democratic competitive process for choosing posts within the party. Negotiations over the allocation of positions within the party included the principle of a party-to-party union as accepted during discussions over the opposition consolidation with the DP, as well as an organization policy for the regional parties. It became apparent, however, that in order to form an unified opposition party aiming for the presidency, the negotiations would be scrapped under the justification that the vested rights of the existing opposition parties would have to be abandoned. In reality, there was strong opposition within the PPD, whose members asked whether it was possible for a party-to-party merger with an equal distribution of power between the PPD with its 70 assembly seats and the DP with its eight seats.

Concerning the readiness to change the party name, high ranking individuals within the party stated: "Although there was some dissatisfaction questioning whether changing the party name was not the equivalent of bringing down the party sign, such a move is symbolic of our abandoning our vested rights as well as our intention to open the party." Those advocating a change in the party name insisted that since the PPD name has carried the negative image of being a Honam region party up to this point, should the Yongnam personalities feel opposed to the name then it should be resolutely thrown out.

This is not to say that PPD personnel are abandoning hopes of taking the lead role in a pan-opposition consolidation. Judging from the current state of affairs within the opposition, it is true that it is difficult to locate a power to replace the PPD which is greater than them as far as organization, personnel, ability to mobilize finances, or leadership.

In stressing a collective leadership system in promoting the pan-opposition consolidation, the strong single-leadership system of the PPD brought to mind the self-righteous image of President Kim. In fact, there had been numerous demands for democratization within the party for some time beforehand. If President Kim's monopoly on party power continues, it would become difficult to continue to expect the participation of middle-of-the-road democratic figures in particular. The collective leadership system is a concept which recognizes the fact that it would be difficult for a pan-opposition party consolidation to effectively attain its objective of expanding its support base as long as Kim maintained his monopoly on party power.

Background Behind the Demand for a "Democratic Competitive Selection"

President Kim once said the committee system was the ideal system for the party's leadership structure. In other words, the party must be led through the sharing of power within the party and the representative council decision making process. This takes the shape of a classic collective leadership system. Kim recognizes the point that under even the most highly-sophisticated collective leadership system, it is only natural that there be a role for a leader. The present opposition camp includes politicians, religious figures, university professors, lawyers, and regional social activists. No matter what concept of a council there is that leads the party, the ultimate leadership role cannot help but go to President Kim—whether based not only on his debating ability, sense of direction, judgment but also on his experience. This is the assertion of those close to Tonggyodong.

On the other hand, these individuals also advocate a combined system which incorporates all the advantages of the single leader system better than a simple collective leadership system would. For example, in the case of the executive chairman system there is a cochairman [taepyo choego uiwon] which corresponds to a chairman. Above that there must be a party president with a given authority above the cochairmen. This plan, especially judging from the DLP party power structure, would take into consideration President Kim's standing and prestige. It is based on the logic that such a system would solidify within the opposition party a position which would be equal in standing to the authority of the ruling party president—the president of the country—during talks between the leaders of the ruling and opposition parties.

The principle of democratic competitive selection of the post is an argument in response to the talk of President Kim stepping down from the leadership to a secondary role. In the past and possibly in the future the best shield to dissipate pressure for President Kim to step down to a secondary role is only by agreeing to the results of democratic competition.

During the regular party convention held in August 1990, President Kim adamantly declined a reelection through a show of unanimous applause. He insisted on holding an anonymous secret ballot only. Of course, he was the only candidate. There was no one who doubted that President Kim would be reelected whether it was by ballot or by applause. The people running the party convention, however, as well as the limited dissenters within the party who were the consolidation signature faction, all opposed a secret ballet. Those in charge of the convention worried about the danger of unnecessary confusion. The signature faction opposed the ballot not only saying that the results of such an election was obvious, but also calling the election a political show which would simply go through the formalities based on President Kim's intentions. The results of the vote showed 98 percent support for Kim. Party officials were satisfied that there was an adequate number of opposing votes.

In his acceptance speech for the position of party president, Kim stated: "With this secret ballet we have confirmed the resolute support of you, the party comrades. While this proves the fiction of talk of my stepping down to a secondary position, in the future as long as there are no demands from the party members or from the people, I will absolutely not step down to a secondary role." The reason for insisting on the principle of democratic competitive selection within a pan-opposition consolidation is just so that the process for selecting the leader would run similar to that at the PPD convention.

Confidential Contacts With Individuals Targeted for the Consolidation

Those individuals who would be included in a pan-opposition consolidation have been divided into groups and have been approached confidentially by prominent party officials who have relationships or acquaintances with those concerned. The typology of these groups is pro-opposition elders, university professors, dissident lawyers, religious personalities, social activists, reserve generals, current assemblymen, and party members.

Those party leaders responsible for making contact with these individuals include Choe Yong-kun, former party vice president who is the head of the Committee for the Promotion of a Coalition of Centrist Democratic Forces [chungdo minju soeryok tonghap chujin uiwon-hoe]; Mun Tong-hwan; adviser Yi Yong-hui, former party vice president; Ho Kyong-man, former chairman of the Assembly Commerce and Industry Committee; Kim Won-ki, head of the Assembly Culture and Sports Committee; Han Kwang-ok, head of the Assembly Labor Committee; and special adviser Kwon No-kap, the command tower of the Tonggyodong Secretariat. These points of contact each maintain a direct link with President Kim, so only President Kim has a has a total grasp of the whole picture.

Should the name of the individuals being contacted become known, it would be difficult for the PPD to continue to keep in touch with them. Accordingly, total confidentiality is maintained. Especially in the case of university professors and dissident personalities, these individuals are said to become quite embarrassed and go into hiding if their name begins to circulate on the outside.

In the beginning, the majority of the relationships begin with these individuals acting either in a simple policy proposal role or as a conduit through which public opinion is passed, under the condition that they will become involved in politics. Although critical of the current regime's intention to democratize and accusing the regime of retreating from their reformist policies, and although they recognize the appropriateness of forming an authorized opposition party for the establishment of a democratic government, such individuals usually despise entering the political arena directly themselves.

What has been devised in consideration of such peculiarities is the auxiliary research center research committee system. President Kim recently established a center using the facilities of the Hanpit Institute of International Studies, an institute which was incorporated by Han Hwa-kap, the chief of the PPD policy office, and which has temporarily suspended business. The plan is to recruit dissident intellectuals who, while resisting direct involvement in front line politics, wish to participate as advisers and commission these individuals as trustees and research committeemen of the institute. The head of the institute would be lawmaker Cho Sun-sung, who had served as a political science professor at the University of Missouri. This research institute is being organized to be the brain trust of the authorized opposition party.

Looking at the individuals whose names have come up within and outside the party during the promotion of the pan-opposition consolidation, the entry of politicians Kim Sang-hyon and Yol Chun-ho into the party is just a matter of time. Rumors are also consistently circulating that high-level politicians will enter the party such as former New Korea Democratic Party President Yi Min-u, former Korea People's Party President Yi Man-sop, and former Minhan Party President Yu Chi-song. Additionally, although President Kim does not appear to welcome them, party leaders have advised him to allow Yi Chong-chae and Yang Sun-sik into the party, particularly Yi who has not relinquished his PPD membership.

Among university professors, some such as Song Ki-suk (Chonnam University), Yi Mun-yong (Koryo University), Kim Yong-chun (Koryo University), Park Chong-hwa (Hanshin University), and Park Sang-sin (Koryo University) have provided advice to President Kim on both a regular and irregular basis; even Yi Ton-myong, president of Choson University, is known to be recognized as one who enjoys access to President Kim on important issues.

Within the world of religious figures, Pastors Kim Kwan-sok, Pak Hyong-kyu, Choe Song-muk, and Kim Sang-kun (all Protestants); the head of the Songgonghoe Theological School Yi Chae-chong; and monks Chison, Chingwan, and Pobsong share their opinion with President Kim not so much as political comrades but rather as concerned over issues such as the realization of social justice and improvement of the human rights situation.

Additionally, attorneys Pak Sae-kyong and Han Sunghon are included as figures within the law profession targeted as possible candidates to enter a pan-opposition party. Attorney Han has even been seen within PPD party headquarters, although in the case of attorney Pak, his current relationship is unknown.

Conception of a Detailed Presidential Strategy

Of all the vocational circles about which President Kim must worry about, and is most vulnerable to, are military generals. Currently within the party there is an assortment of reserve generals, including Assemblyman Chong Ung who was a division commander on the scene at the time of the Kwangju struggle, and the head of the Peace Comrades Committee [pyonghwa chonu-hoe] Kim Sangkyun. The name of the former commander of the Maritime and Port Authority, Kang Chang-song, a three star reserve general born in South Kyongsang Province, also comes up occasionally, but he is currently not active in politics.

The majority of these individuals wish to avoid being misunderstood within political circles because of close connections with a specific political party. They regard themselves as a neutral conscious force, stressing their role in checking and criticizing the ruling class.

There was a major change in these individuals' attitudes, however, before and after the formation of the DLP, according to one PPD executive's explanation. Frankly speaking, during the period when President Kim Taechung and the PPD, together with President Kim Yongsam and the Reunification Democratic Party, coexisted as the opposition parties, these individuals maintained a delicate position in trying to avoid easily getting too close to one side or the other. After the merger of the DLP, however, it is said that there are increasing questions on whether these individuals should gather their strength in the one remaining opposition party, the PPD. Also, even granted that these individuals have maintained their positions as a conscious voice of dissent distant from the world of politics, as soon as the whirlwind of the pan-opposition consolidation blows, then the possibility exists that they will be attracted by real politics, each finding justification for their own actions.

The PPD intends to take the nationwide local autonomy elections—to be held in the first half of 1991—as an opportunity to make this happen as well as the national general assembly elections to be held in the first half of 1992; the regional local autonomy council chief [tanchoe-chang] elections; and the presidential election to be held in early 1993. Since all these opportunities are now in sight, the PPD will stress their political agenda, which allows for a democratic transfer of power while appealing for a consolidation of the opposition forces. Should this happen, it appears that it will be a golden opportunity for the PPD. It appears highly possible that there will be initial moves within the opposition circles for a second political restructuring.

However, when one looks at President Kim's promotion of a pan-opposition consolidation in connection with his strategy for the presidency, the analysis is convincing that he has placed his priority target in finding possible vice presidential material within the Yongnam circle.

Although it may be possible to muster upper- and middle-level dissident figures, under a collective leadership system it will not be easy to find a veteran politician who could represent the interests of the masses of the Yongnam region at the cochairman level or above.

The Promotion of Yongnam Personalities and the Vice Presidential System

Among President Kim's strategy for the presidency another vital element is his vice presidential running mate and the method of the final vote.

While noting that the DLP advocates the cabinet-system by claiming that the presidential system greatly intensifies regionalism, thus causing great damage to the political system, President Kim himself has proposed a plan for a vice presidential system. That is, Kim claimed that regionalism could be remedied through a system in which, for example, should the president be a Honam region personality, then the vice president could be from a non-Honam area such as Yongnam. Additionally, Kim says, in a political climate such as that found in Korea, the introduction of a vice presidential system which can also act as a check against a one-man dictatorship is necessary.

Although theoretically the vice presidential system has its positive and negative aspects, considering the current political position of President Kim this system may indeed be particularly effective in augmenting Kim's stepping stones to the presidency. Depending on the role and authority granted the vice president, the significance of the position might vary, but foremost it allows for power to be dispersed more than a one-man power monopoly does. It can also have the additional influence of creating a government with a character of a regional alliance.

One high ranking party official has hinted that President Kim has already commenced his campaign to recruit a vice presidential running mate into the party from Yongnam. Recently, President Kim has repeatedly shown his confidence concerning this. This same official stated that the ideal scenario would entail a Yongnam personality entering the party through pan-opposition consolidation. Beginning with the local autonomy election to be held in early 1991, this individual would work his way through the nationwide campaign with President Kim while solidifying his position as Kim's running mate.

The task of locating a running mate from within the Yongnam circle, however, will be far from easy. One reason for this, as offered by PPD officials, is that since Yongnam has been the hotbed of the ruling regime for thirty years, opposition party candidates have not been able to develop in this region.

On the other hand, another reason is that until the pan-opposition consolidation has taken place, there are in actuality very few politicians from the Yongnam region attempting to enter the PPD. That is because of the influence regional sentiment has come to have in Korea's current political situation.

Such a phenomenon is true in the DLP as well. Immediately after the formation of the DLP, cochairmen Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil both labored hard at getting an assemblyman from the Honam region to enter the party as a cochairman. The names of former high ranking officials from both ruling and opposition parties, as well as veterans from the academic and legal worlds, came up in discussion. Generally those individuals suitable for the position refused, and those individuals watching to see the possibility of their being accepted did not meet the standards. Judging from this, it seems as though the problem of being a regional party is shared by both ruling and opposition parties.

When one notes that regionalism is the number one barrier to Kim's strategy to become president—a barrier which begins not only with the local autonomy elections but extends through the presidential election in early 1993—it is not difficult to predict to what degree an opposition consolidation will be pursued in order to counter this regionalism.

There are two different plans under discussion for a pan-opposition consolidation. One advocates an expansion and revision of the current PPD party structure after dissident democratic forces enter the party en masse, followed by a change in party name. There is the possibility, however, of this plan being criticized by those such as the DP and the Minyonchu as amounting to no more than an expansion of the PPD's power.

Another plan is the formation of a new opposition party. A planning committee for the founding of a consolidated opposition party with representatives of opposition democratic forces across the spectrum would be formed which allowed the PPD to participate while maintaining its existing structure. Some are of the opinon that PPD leaders can accept such a method for forming a new party which encourages an opposition consolidation without having to change the PPD name and abandon their vested rights.

Unification Policy Is Also Related to the Presidency

President Kim noted in his 11 December 1990 press conference, in which he announced his compromise plan for the local autonomy election law negotiations, that dissidents are showing that they will lead a merger. Kim expressed his regrets on this day concerning how the small electoral districts will be chosen. The reason is that the small electoral district system will have difficulty in breaking through regionalism and is disadvantageous to the opposition party. Should only one person be elected in one district and the opposition fail to put forward a single candidate to run in a district, it goes without saying that this would be relatively disadvantageous to the opposition candidate.

On the other hand, the small electoral district system could also have the effect of pressuring the opposition into a pan-opposition consolidation since it does promote a two party system. President Kim noted: "Under the small electoral district system, I will make the elections an opportunity to turn misfortune into blessing by promoting the consolidation of pan-opposition democratic forces in order to turn the local autonomy elections into a victory."

Kim also explains that the PPD's support base is expanding from a simple regional association of Honam forces to a social class-based relationship including farmers, urban poor, and salary workers. The PPD until now has been able to strengthen its image as a party which represents the farmers through their actions to promote loan forgiveness for farmers and fishermen, reduction and exemption from taxes, raising the government purchase price of rice, and opposing the Uruguay Round of negotiations. Because of this, even farmers within the Yongnam area have criticized the DLP. The PPD has shown its confidence that these Yongnam farmers have come into the PPD support base.

In addition to the domestic political issues such as the local autonomy election and the pan-opposition consolidation, one issue which must be included as a weapon in President Kim's strategy to become president is his unification policy. President Kim announced that he plans to dispatch a team of representatives to North Korea during 1991, and according to the results of that visit he also stated that he would consider visiting North Korea himself if it was necessary. When one takes into account the leftist complex which has been the biggest burden President Kim has had to bear until now, this cannot help but be a bold statement. When one is reminded of the intelligence agency politics which began with the suspicion of Kim having prior knowledge of the illegal visit to North Korea by a party member in the summer of 1989, it certainly is a major change on Kim's part.

President Kim tends to be viewed as a politician who is extremely shrewd and quick to adjust to changing times and the changing world situation. Kim's planned visit to North Korea is interpreted as the result of his being greatly incensed by the visit to the Soviet Union of DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung's customary rival. President Kim believes that there is a big danger that should the government monopolize relations with North Korea, there would be a possible break in the balance and consistency of policy towards North Korea during future changes of regimes resulting from an election.

Those close to Tonggyodong have started to insist: "Should candidates in the presidential election to be held in early 1993 not be acceptable to the people and at the same time carry enough weight with North Korea, having an image of 'unification president' or 'unification vice president'?"

There is almost no question that the unification question will be a major issue in the next presidential election struggle. It appears as though President Kim's strategy for the presidency, armed with such weapons as active public speeches during the local autonomy elections, promotion of consolidated pan-opposition, and his bold dispatch of a team of representatives to North Korea, will mature in the future.

Service Trade Negotiations Conducted With U.S.

SK1302042491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 13 (YONHAP)—The United States has demanded that South Korea add legal services, health care, leasing, franchising and insurance brokerage to areas of the service market it has offered to liberalize, the Economic Planning Board (EPB) said Wednesday.

In Seoul-Washington service trade negotiations that opened Monday in Geneva, the U.S. delegation insisted Korea include more sectors in the service offer list presented to GATT's Trade Negotiations Committee Jan. 15, an EPB spokesman said.

They reserved education and international trade, however.

The U.S. side showed a keen interest in Seoul's definitions and in its restrictions on service sectors that need to be registered or licensed when foreign service firms open subsidiaries or branches, the spokesman said.

They asked for entry of U.S. firms in the insurance market, saying the Seoul offer failed to meet a Korea-U.S. agreement.

The U.S. delegation was headed by Nancy Adams, deputy assistant U.S. trade representative.

The Koreans said America must add shipping and supplementary air service to its offer list and permit free manpower shifts in the construction sector.

Seoul and Washington are to begin full negotiations on the offers in accordance with results of one or two more meetings.

"Both sides have tried mainly to check and confirm each other's offer list, so no substantial result came up in the meeting regarding commitments to liberalization," the EPB spokesman said.

UK To Promote Joint Optical, Laser Research

SK1302035091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Britain agreed Tuesday to promote joint research in optical communications, genetic engineering and laser applications.

Yi Ki-chu, assistant foreign minister for economic affairs, and John Meadway, undersecretary of trade and industry, committed their nations to postwar reconstruction in Iraq and Kuwait, to exploitation of resources in Siberia and to advancement into Eastern Europe.

Meadway asked Korea to open its insurance and security markets by repealing high capital requirements for foreign investors, and to lower customs duties on whiskey.

Yi expressed concern over anti-dumping measures against Korean goods by EC nations and asked for correction.

Satellite Director Wants Scientists From Abroad

SK1302040091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Article by Kim Min-chol entitled "Overseas Korean Space Scientists Return for Koreasat"]

[Excerpt] Seoul, Feb. 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea's success in building and launching a communications satellite by April 1995 rests entirely on its ability to lure home Korean scientists from Europe and the United States.

"At least 20-30 scientists are necessary, on top of current human powers, to seek the space project," says Yi Kyu-chong, 52, who returned early this year after 23 years in America.

Yi earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering and worked for Hughes Aircraft Co. from 1977 until early this month, when he was put in charge of the Koreasat project.

"At present, the company, I guess, have had contacts with nine Korean-American space scientists, and that they are likely to come here though I cannot release the exact names," says Song Yong-tu, named chief of strategy coordination early this month.

Song, 50, has a doctorate in solid state physics and was chief researcher at TRW Electronics System Group in America from 1984. He was chairman of the Korean-American Space Scientists and Engineers Association, founded in May 1989 with 50 full members and 20 associate members.

"The company is urgently in need of human powers who can oversee, operate and control the complicated works related to the Koreasat project since little education facilities are able to produce space scientists and engineers in the nation," he says.

"In Korea, the Korea Aerospace Research Institute and the Electronics & Telecommunication Research Institute of Korea can be counted on such a domestic institutes concerning space development, but the two institutes will be able to play a limited role in the project."

There have been problems obtaining experienced scientists and engineers, says Hwangbo Han, head of the project.

"Several experienced scientists are supposed to come here in the first half of the year," Hwanbo says.

Korea Telecom hopes to hire 25 space scientists abroad by the end of the year, and will train 50-60 scientists and engineers in and out of the nation, he says.

They will be put in a control station, checking and testing the launch vehicle and communications, he says.

Korea Telecom is expected to buy a launch vehicle and ground launch facilities through international bids. The company, privatized this year, is to choose a bidder for the rocket in December 1991 and ground facilities in April 1992.

Korea Telecom hopes to have the ground facilities ready by December 1994 and use self-developed subsystems. [passage omitted]

Oil Refinery Fire Results in Production Cuts

SK1402130591 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] The Sosan Police Station and the Kuktong Refinery have been investigating how a fire at this refinery was caused. Witnesses have said that flames came out of a tower used for the production of medium-quality oil. Therefore, in the belief that there were defects in pipes for the production of medium-quality oil, the police and the refinery have been inspecting this.

Meanwhile the Power Ministry has said that as a result of today's fire the production of light oil, naphta, and kerosene—which are produced at medium-quality oil cracking facilities—will be decreased by approximately 34,000 barrels a day.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Sultan Bans Al-Arqam Muslim Movement

BK1302133291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Bandar Seri Begawan, Feb 13 (AFP)—Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah said Wednesday he was banning the Al-Arqam, a Moslem movement, for allegedly spreading teachings contrary to Islam.

In a royal decree released by the government in conjunction with Israk Mekraj, the Prophet Mohammed's ascension, Sultan Hassanal, 44, said his decision was based on the tiny oil-rich kingdom's religious council which had studied Al-Arqam's activities.

The ban follows concern expressed by parents that their children were staying away from school to attend the movement's activities.

Sultan Hassanal, reputedly the world's richest man, said that young Bruneians were fighting their parents in defence of Al-Arqam's teachings.

He said that Brunei officials should ban foreigners associated with Al-Arqam or those threatening religious harmony in this Moslem state.

Al-Arqam has a wide following in Malaysia and Singapore.

Malaysia

UN Envoy Criticizes U.S. 'Double Standard'

BK1402074491 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Malaysia should persist in its efforts by calling for a stop to the destruction of Iraq although its efforts at finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis had been hampered. This could be done by supporting peace initiative and persuading the United Nations to hold a Security Council meeting to discuss the situation.

Malaysia, a member of the U.N. Security Council, last year along with Cuba, Yemen, and Colombia drafted a comprehensive peace proposal but the idea was shot down by the United States and Britain which refused to consider it deeply.

Malaysia's special envoy to the UN, Datuk Musa Hitam, said one thing the country had learnt is the almost dictatorial powers of certain countries within the UN that Malaysia has to contend with when considering any solution to world problems within the United Nations framework.

Datuk Musa was also critical of the United States' double standard in its policy in the West Asia and elsewhere. He cited the U.S invasion of Grenada, Panama, and its support for Iraq when the latter invaded Iran, as example. He said an invasion is an invasion. Any threat to the sovereignty of any country should be condemned and opposed as expressed by Malaysia time and time again.

Minister Says Tourism Not Affected by Gulf War

BK1402091291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0753 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 14 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Gulf war does not have much effect on the tourism industry in this country, Minister for Culture, Arts, and Tourism Sabbaruddin Chik said Thursday. He told a press conference here that the government would continue with its efforts to make Malaysia a major tourist destination.

Companies involved in the tourism industry need not panic as the effect of the war on Malaysia so far was small compared with what was being experienced by other countries in the region, he said.

"My ministry and the Tourist Development Corporation (TDC) are monitoring the situation and necessary measures would be taken to ensure continued growth of the country's tourism industry," he added.

Sabbaruddin said all the programmes, including marketing planned for this year would be implemented in a more aggressive manner in view of the negative reports on the situation in the country by the foreign press.

A number of incidents not related to the Gulf war were blown up by the foreign media to discourage tourists from visiting Malaysia, he added.

The minister said one of the measures taken by the government through TDC was the stepping up of promotional work overseas, especially in Europe and the United States. TDC directors overseas were also told to get feedback on the reaction of tourists towards Malaysia and to present a true picture of the situation in the country to the people.

We will have to change our long term strategy by concentrating more on Asia-Pacific countries, ASEAN, and domestic tourists if the Gulf war continues for a long time, he said.

Sabbaruddin said his ministry, the TDC, and the private sector would also play a more active role in marketing Malayia at tourism pomotional conferences, like the ones to be held in Berlin and Milan.

Singapore

Board Issues Statistics on Foreign Trade

OW1302132791 Taipei CNA in English 1030 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Singapore, Feb. 13 (CNA)— The Republic of China [ROC] on Taiwan was Singapore's sixth biggest trade partner last year with a two-way volume of S

[Singapore] $8.1 billion (about U.S.$4.4 billion), the latest Trade Development Board statistics show.

The volume was up 15.8 percent from the S$7 billion in 1989, when the ROC ranking already was sixth.

The United States continues in the No. 1 position, with its two- way trade value with Singapore rising 2.5 percent to S$37.8 billion (U.S.$21 billion) last year. Japan came next with S$27.4 billion (U.S.$15.2 billion), up 8.3 percent from 1989.

Others ahead of the ROC in standing were Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Thailand. Their trade with Singapore grew 15.8 percent, 28 percent, and 15.8 percent respectively last year.

Trade with the Chinese mainland dropped 7.5 percent to S$5.2 billion, making Communist China slip one position to No. 10 on Singapore's trade partner list.

Cambodia

Khieu Samphan Voices Doubts on Restoration Plan

BK1302124291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 13 (AFP)—Thailand's plan to help rebuild Cambodia as a prelude to a political solution received a lukewarm response from the Khmer Rouge here Wednesday.

Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan said after a three-hour meeting with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan that the faction would accept the proposal only if it was within the framework of a comprehensive plan.

"Any plan to rehabilitate Cambodia must be conceived as a part, as a package within the Perm Five (permanent five members of the U.N. Security Council) comprehensive political settlement," he said.

"We are very pleased to accept the plan, but only as a package," he added.

Mr. Chatchai announced his plan to help reconstruct Cambodia with funding from Japan on Monday. He said rebuilding of the existing rail system, roads, airports and electrical facilities could be started before a political solution was reached.

He called on the four warring factions to set up a working group to identify projects and to decide with which areas the work should begin.

Government Spokesman Pridiyathon Thewakun said although the working group was not within the framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, the proposal to rehabilitate Cambodia was consistent with the peace plan.

"We are pleased to know that his excellency Mr. Khieu Samphan will accept the plan if it is consistent with the peace plan, because it is," he said.

"He might be afraid that we will 'rebuild' something that would benefit a certain faction. But our plan is to rehabilitate the already existing facilities," he said.

Mr. Chatchai is now to meet with Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Friday to discuss the proposal. Representatives from the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front have given their full support to the scheme.

Mr. Chatchai's separate meeting with the Cambodian factions' leaders is part of a diplomatic maneouver to persuade the factions to meet again in Jakarta as the Supreme National Council.

The SNC, comprising two delegates from each resistance faction and six from Phnom Penh, was formed under a U.N. peace plan in September to represent Cambodian sovereignty until elections can be held.

Hor Namhong To Pay Visit to Thailand 'Soon'

BK1402045891 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia's foreign minister, accompanied by Comrade (?Sok An), deputy foreign minister, and a number of cadres, will very soon pay a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand to exchange views on a solution to the Cambodian problem.

Japanese Diplomat in Phnom Penh for Talks

BK1302121091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 13 (AFP)—Senior Japanese diplomat Yukio Imagawa arrived here Wednesday to assess reconstruction needs and discuss peace moves with Cambodian leaders, the envoy said.

Mr. Imagawa, a minister at the Japanese Embassy in Thailand, said he would meet with Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An on Wednesday to map out an agenda.

He said he hoped to meet, among others, Prime Minister Hun Sen, National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, Deputy Premier Kong Sam Ol and Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong, who is due to leave here Friday for talks on Cambodia with Thai leaders in Bangkok.

Mr. Imagawa also said he hoped to visit Kompong Speu, Kompong Chhnang and Koh Kong, a thriving port near the Thai border, to assess needs and the economic and security situation.

Mr. Imagawa said his mission was two-fold—to gauge Phnom Penh's attitude towards the peace process and to make a serious study of the economic situation in Cambodia.

This would allow Japan to work out what could be done for the reconstruction of Cambodia, where the government is fighting a tripartite resistance alliance.

Japan and Australia cochair a commission on Cambodia's reconstruction set up in August 1989.

Mr. Imagawa said a lot had happened over the Cambodian question since he visited Phnom Penh some six months ago and Tokyo wanted to hear Phnom Penh's views on the various steps taken to speed an end to the 12-year civil war.

"We must know exactly what is the attitude of the state of Cambodia towards the peace settlement...especially to the P5 Plan," he said.

Phnom Penh and the resistance accepted most points in the peace plan drawn up by the Permanent Five (P5) members of the United Nations Security Council.

The plan envisages a fairly large U.N. role in the run up to free and fair elections, but Phnom Penh has expressed reservations about some of the plan's proposals.

Mr. Imagawa said an embassy colleague, Tadashi Ikeda, would visit Beijing for a few days from February 23 to discuss the peace process with Chinese officials, who back the resistance.

Mr. Imagawa will leave here February 23 for Ho Chi Minh City before continuing to Hanoi on February 24.

Mr. Imagawa is a fluent Khmer speaker whose diplomatic career began in Phnom Penh in 1957.

He played an important role in a June meeting Japan hosted in Tokyo between Mr. Hun Sen and resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Hor Namhong Receives French Democracy Group

BK1402090091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0428 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 14 Feb (SPK)—In Phnom Penh on Monday 11 February, Hor Namhong, the minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, received a delegation of the "Foundation for Democracy" headed by Guy Lardeyret.

The Cambodian minister informed his French guests of the efforts made by the State of Cambodia in national defense and reconstruction during the the past 12 years and of its goodwill in the process of a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

On this matter, he stressed that the United Nations could play some role in Cambodia during the transitional period. He added, however, that the State of Cambodia must not be dismantled before the elections because "the State of Cambodia is the only government that is fighting to prevent the resurgence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime."

The French delegation left Phnom Penh today, thus concluding its four-day visit to Cambodia.

During its stay, the delegation was successively received by Sin Song, minister of interior; Chea Chanto, minister of planning; and Chem Snguon, deputy minister of justice, to learn about, among other things, the security and social order situation, investment problems, the search for energy, and constitutional implementation in Cambodia.

The guests also visited the former royal palace, the national museum, the Tuol Sleng museum of genocidal crimes, the mass graves at Cheung Ek, and the Angkor Wat temples in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

THE NATION on Possible Domestic Problems

BK1402035191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Feb 91 p A8

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "Domestic Woes Plague Phnom Penh"]

[Text] Not long ago, the primary worry for the Phnom Penh government in Cambodia, as well as a growing point of concern for the international community, was the possibility of a return to power by the Khmer Rouge through military force.

Now, however, a new possibility is being talked about with increasing concern—one that may eventually prove even more dangerous—a return to power by the communist guerrillas through a political solution.

This point was stressed by Foreign Minister Hor Namhong in a recent interview with The Nation. His two primary concerns for the government were the ability of Phnom Penh to stave off a Khmer Rouge political offensive while also fighting it on the battlefield, and the possibility of economic difficulties creating future instability.

For years, together with its military might, the Khmer Rouge has used psychological warfare to win the support of peasants in rural areas, whose lives have remained static and some of whom are still trapped in a situation of desperate poverty.

Since last year, the Khmer Rouge guerrillas have mobilized their forces and captured mountainous areas close to the Thai border as well as marching into the provinces surrounding Phnom Penh.

The hit-and-run strategy and seizure of districts in Banteay province have one immediate consequence—a massive influx of villagers and peasants out of their home areas. The increase in refugees fleeing from the fighting between the government forces and the Khmer Rouge has become a destabilizing factor for Phnom Penh.

The large amount of displaced peasants as well as drought in rice-growing areas, particularly in Kampot, has caused grave concern among international relief workers that a food shortage in Cambodia could be serious this year. Added to this predicament is a possible shortage of fertilizer, which used to be supplied by the Soviet Union. Two local phosphate fertilizer plants are working full steam to supply fertilizer to provincial areas.

A UN official estimated recently that Cambodia would need at least 100,000 tonnes of rice to meet the country's needs. With about 60 international humanitarian organizations now operating in Cambodia, there is hope that food assistance from abroad will make up the shortfall.

This year Cambodia is expected to receive about $20 million dollars worth of humanitarian aid from non-governmental organizations. UN-related agencies such as UNICEF and UNDP [UN Development Program] will provide an additional $10 million. This assistance however cannot substitute the much-needed government-to-government loans and grants.

But no matter how easily swayed peasants are by the Khmer Rouge, the government feels they do not pose much of a threat. In fact, Phnom Penh seems more concerned about the affluent new rich, the intelligentsia, and the impoverished civil-servants.

In fact, the challenge this government faces is its ability in the months ahead to muster urban support while it tries to stave off its battlefield enemies. Keeping the right balance between political moves and economic reform is proving harder and harder for the Phnom Penh government.

Reform since 1985 has allowed the primitive economic system to prosper and expand, though at the expense of the government's revenue. It has benefitted chiefly the city dwellers and some rural people, who moved into the capital in early 1979. Urban prosperity has widened the disparity between the city and countryside. Most importantly, the system has bred corruption among civil servants.

Only recently has the government had the courage to increase taxes and levy customs duties to increase the size of its budget. New laws on tax collection were passed, but have proved unpopular with city dwellers who are used to a "free for all" trade. Rich traders want more leeway to make foreign contacts and to travel, which the government feels it cannot provide at this time.

The soaring budget deficit is another serious problem and will determine how long and effectively the 135,000-man army and militia will be able to fight against the Khmer Rouge. Without a ceasefire in the near future, the financial burden imposed by the army and the militamen may become overbearing.

This year, the National Assembly approved a budget of 107 billion riels (approximate Bt 4.3 billion) of which over 60 per cent will go to national defence. Increasingly, the government finds it difficult to get enough income to meet such a high budget. Although revenue from taxes has increased over the years, it is still far from enough. It is estimated that the government will suffer a budget deficit of 35 billion riels this year.

Foreseeing this budget-deficit problem, the government immediately issued government saving bonds and charity certificates that could bring in at least 7 billion riels from the public, according to Cha Rieng, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia.

Mobilization of public funds is important for another reason—to feed the huge bureaucracy, which now stands at 230,000 civil servants. In the past year, the government has tried to reduce the bureaucracy by 50 per cent. But all it could do was to reduce the number by 40,000 to 50,000 people through voluntary retirement and state compensation schemes.

The mammoth bureaucracy has also delayed the implementation of the government's decision to increase their payrolls. Given that inflation stood at 450 per cent annually last month, poor civil servants find it extremely difficult to make ends meet. Some provincial government officials and teachers have not received their salaries at all. Besides their low morale, they have to look for other means to earn a living.

But the greatest dissatisfaction rests among the intelligentsia and those Cambodians who have returned home in recent years. The power of this top echelon has been felt in the political realm.

The ruling People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK) moved quickly last year to quash emerging opposition groups by purging and arresting senior government officials. Though Western Cambodian watchers saw the crackdown as the end of liberalization in Cambodia, it however may not be the case.

As some diplomats saw it, the arrests were the outcome of personal rivalry within the party's hierarchy rather than conflicts over liberalization. In addition those arrested, among whom included the former minister of science and information, Ung Phang, were not put on trial. This suggested that the government was ready to be lenient in order not to alienate the intelligentsia any further.

Additonally, more than 5,000 young Cambodian students who studied in Eastern Europe have recently returned home. The students were in Eastern Europe at the time when socialism was giving way to democratic forces, and they may prove to be a force that the government will have to reckon with. They could be an asset or liability, depending on how the government decides to deal with them.

To prepare itself for the future, the PRPK has sharpened its image and cut down the size of the party to 34,000 members. The party appointed former Vice Foreign Minister Dith Munthy as chief of the Party's Propaganda and Educational Commission, to polish its image. Since August last year, the party has sacked almost a dozen of its top members including several provincial governors who were held responsible for so-called "negative phenomena"—misappropriation of funds and other acts of corruption.

All things considered, the government is facing a myriad of serious domestic problems. For the government, the choice is rather obvious: if it wants to maintain the status quo, it must seek broad-based cooperation from the new rich, the intelligentsia and its own civil servants.

That would mean a more open and tolerant society that seeks to reconcile the divergent elements within it and in international support. Phnom Penh will also find it is far more easier to make do with existing non-communist elements inside the country than to cope with the Khmer Rouge alone.

Without such support, the government may survive all its military battles, only to lose the domestic political war.

Say Chhum Chairs Justice Ministry Meeting

BK1402064291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] A meeting to sum up the outcome of the Justice Ministry's 1990 work was held on the morning of 12 February at the Administrative and Legislative Cadre School under the chairmanship of Comrade Say Chhum, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. Also attending the meeting were the comrade cadres from all departments of the Justice Ministry and many lawyers and public prosecutors from all provinces and cities throughout the country.

In his opening speech, Comrade Say Chhum noted the achievements made by the Justice Ministry in drafting laws and training our cadres, thus enabling the work in the justice sector to develop more successfully than in past years. The comrade also called on all participants to actively join in expressing their opinions so as to provide good experiences for improving the justice work of our State of Cambodia.

Chea Sim Closes Recruitment Council Meeting

BK1302163491 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Summary From Poor Reception] Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, closed the meeting of the national recruitment councils on the morning of 13 February.

In view of the successes scored by the provincial and municipal national recruitment councils in 1990, the meeting decided to confer the Council of Ministers' rotary banner and the Central National Recruitment Council's banner and certificate of merit on provinces, districts, and units which were outstanding in troop recruitment work last year.

In his closing speech, Chea Sim said:

[Begin Chea Sim recording] Our meeting has clearly seen the achievements scored in 1990 by our armed forces and people—under the leadership of our Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP]—in their counterattacks against the enemies' adventurous activities. "We have completely foiled their attempt to take over Phnom Penh city, to depose the State of Cambodia's state authority, and in particular their plan to overrun the provinces along the border with Thailand in the western region. We believe that our armed forces and people are fully capable of preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, and we will certainly be crowned with an ultimate victory over all manner of enemies because our struggle is correct, just, and equitable." We have the upper hand on the enemies, who can in no way reverse the situation of the motherland.

"On a political settlement of the Cambodian problem, our conclave has totally supported our party and the State of Cambodia's steadfast principled stance on preserving our state authority and armed forces, which are of vital importance for the people and the effective weapon for blocking the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime." The Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] and the Cambodian people "categorically oppose the attempt to place Cambodia under the protectorate of any international organization." Through fighting against the genocidal Polpotist gang and its allies, the CPAF has unambiguously realized the danger posed by the genocidal clique against the Cambodian people.

"The party and the government of the State of Cambodia will continue their endeavor with genuine goodwill to find a political solution to quickly end the war in Cambodia on the basis of implementing a cease-fire and maintaining the status quo both politically and militarily toward organizing general elections under international supervision. We welcome the United Nations' role in the political settlement of the Cambodian problem provided the role complies with the UN Charter and the Cambodian nation's sovereignty as well as the Cambodian people's right to self-determination."

At its 20th session, the first National Assembly "proposed that general elections be organized in 1992 to elect new parliamentary members in case a political solution to the Cambodian problem cannot be found and under circumstances where our parliament has already completed its term. This is the sacred request in conformity with circumstances and in line with the Constitution and the current law of the State of Cambodia."

At the meeting, the national recruitment councils have discovered the weak and strong points of their activities in 1990. They put forth concrete proposals with a view to strengthening, developing, and promoting the achievements of their work in the future. "The meeting is determined to overcome and to completely iron out negativism by taking necessary measures for improvement via the use of concrete advanced scientific methods. The military service law should be correctly, constantly, and efficiently enforced and linked to the task of administering youths and people in each grassroots locality." The meeting has noted that the point which cannot be overlooked in the conscription of youths is the "impartiality" in executing the military service law. "To bring this plan to success, cadres, party members, party committees, and state authorities should serve as models for the people and masses."

Recruitment councils, party committees, state authorities, masses, services, offices, and concerned units are the basic, strong forces for successfully carrying out recruitment work. It is true that this key task cannot be successfully carried out if combined forces, combined measures, and combined methods at each locality nationwide are not used. In the past, our deficiencies were not caused by the policies and decisions of the party, state, and front but by the concrete method and application which did not respond properly to the process and need of our party and front's mass motivating movement.

In sum, our meeting discussed every issue and formulated concrete measures for future rectification and improvement. This is aimed at creating a firm foundation for implementing the planned activities in 1991.

"The situation on the battlefield demands that we exert our efforts and use our time to build our armed forces. Only with this drive can we decisively maintain the balance of force, thereby preserving stability and the military and political status quo. We should at all costs oppose maneuvers conducted by all manner of enemies who are attempting to drastically reverse the situation on the battlefield so as to eradicate the current military and political status quo for the purpose of toppling our State of Cambodia."

As for our objective to build the armed forces, "we have no intention of expanding or prolonging the war. The important thing is that we need to defend ourselves and to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime."

I call on all youths to be actively involved in carrying out the task of defending the motherland to safeguard our nation's independence, sovereignty, and social gains against the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. "It is only we, the Cambodians of this generation, who should by ourselves decidedly thwart the cruel and barbarous threat to our lives. Noone, and no international organization, can protect us against the danger. There is nothing better for us to defend ourselves." "The task of building our armed forces remains an essential duty until a definitive political solution is reached. This is because the enemies, who have lately received military aid from foreign countries, are currently intensifying their military activities more fiercely than ever before. They never want to let our people live in peace. So, only with military means can we defend ourselves and foil the enemy's ambition. This is a delicate task, but it is our imperative and unavoidable duty for the survival of our Cambodian nation and race." [end recording]

Reportage on Government Operations Along Border

*BK1402075391 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0446 GMT 14 Feb 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 14—In the week to Feb. 1, the government forces launched scores of counter-attacks against the enemy troops along the northwestern border areas and in some localities of Kompong Thom Province.

According to military sources, the government troops in their 27 operations annihilated 118 enemy soliers, captured 71, forced 64 others to lay down their weapons and seized 270 firearms, three walkie-takies and a quantity of ammunition and other war means.

During the same period, the government forces in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, 300 km from Phnom Penh, put out of action 116 enemy soldiers, including 34 wiped out, 64 captured, 18 others forced to surrender.

They also collected 60 guns of various calibers, three walkie-talkies, a quantity of war materiel, and destroyed six enemy hideouts, said the same sources in details.

In Kompong Thom Province, 300 km north of here, 110 enemy soldiers were also put out of action, including five killed, 41 forced to surrender, 64 captured and 152 guns seized.

In the 3d Military Zone, 21 enemy troops were annihilated, 42 wounded, one captured, three others forced to put their hands up. Moreover, 15 guns and 15 land mines were seized and four enemy shelters burnt down.

The sources further said that in the first week of February, 172 enemy troops were crushed to death as they tried to sneak back from the other side of the border into the area controlled by the 4th Military Zone. One hundred and ninety enemy troops were wounded and 21 others capitulated. Meanwhile, the government troops destroyed two enemy tanks, seized 41 guns and one radio receiver.

In January this year, the sources noted, the enemy operations were quite as active as in the same period in 1990 or 32 actions less than in January last year with 185 actions along the border. Always in the first month of this year, 657 enemy soldiers were put out of action along the border and elsewhere, including 438 killed, 98 captured, 121 forced to surrender. Moreover, the government forces also seized 404 rifles, and 14 walkie-talkies, and destroyed 13 enemy shelters and a quantity of other war means, the sources said.

Communique Follows Talks With Thai Leader

BK1402024991 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] On 13 February, His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Royal Thai Government, received for talks Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen at the former's request.

His Excellency Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan informed Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen of plans to assist in rebuilding war-ravaged Cambodia. Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen informed his excellency the prime minister that if these plans have the same character as the plan prepared within the framework of the third committee of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and would be implemented within the framework of a comprehensive solution in accordance with the 26 November 1990 draft agreement, the two excellencies would be pleased to accept them.

However, the issue, as put forward by his excellency the prime minister, is a new one. Therefore, Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen asked to consult with the other two parties of the Cambodian resistance forces.

Following is the press communique of His Excellency Khieu Samphan.

1. At lunch, His Excellency Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan raised a number of issues. We informed the prime minister that we need to discuss these issues with other parties of the Cambodian national resistance forces.

2. We also informed the prime minister that, like other parties of the Cambodian national resistance forces, we will also give highest priority to the economic and trade relations between Cambodia and Thailand.

3. We would like to take this opportunity to express again profound gratitude to the Thai people and the Royal Government for providing most precious support and assistance to the Cambodian people and kind shelter to Cambodian war refugees.

VONADK Ridicules Phnom Penh's SNC Changes

BK1402031591 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Station commentary: "Analyzing the Truth About the Hanoi Vietnamese Aggressors Changing Their Puppets in the Supreme National Council"]

[Text] 1. Recent reports said that the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets in Phnom Penh have changed the composition of the Supreme National Council [SNC].

2. The composition of this SNC was decided in Jakarta on 10 September 1990 in the presence of the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC], the representative of the UN Secretary General, and the four Cambodian parties. Therefore, the decision was made with a consensus.

3. The changes made by Vietnam and its puppets in Phnom Penh of their men within the SNC—which is the sole representative of Cambodia's sovereignty—is a political game interfering with the decision made by the conference attended by the PICC cochairmen, the UN Secretary General's representative, and the four Cambodian parties.

This clearly shows that Vietnam and its puppets have successively opposed UN Security Council [UNSC] documents. This is why after returning from Jakarta, they immediately opposed them. And later on, they voiced this opposition again, at the meeting in Paris between the four parties and the cochairmen in January 1991. Now they have changed their men in the SNC at will. They do things as they please; this means that they have been carrying out activities to destroy the UNSC documents and will continue to do so.

National and diplomatic circles in the international arena have again and again confirmed that the big obstacle to acceptance of the UNSC documents comes from the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors who have ordered their puppets accordingly.

4. Vietnam and its puppets in Phnom Penh explained that the three puppets have resigned—and have been replaced by three more—because they are busy with their work. This reason has people really laughing because everyone knows that everything is decided, set up, and carried out by Vietnam while the puppets, from Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim on down, are just stooges.

Reports of Shelling, Casualties in Battambang

BK1402024191 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 13 Feb 91

[From the "Daily report from various battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] South Battambang town battlefield: On 10 February, our national resistance forces attacked the positions of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and Vietnam's puppets and lackeys at Phnum Kul. We killed 12 enemy soldiers and wounded others. A regiment of Vietnamese enemy troops from Taphde trying to rescue their comrades were ambushed by our forces with artillery fire. Seven enemy soldiers were killed and a number of others wounded. On 11 February, our national resistance forces fired artillery shells at (Seng An) position, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Alatas Discusses Civilian Casualties in Gulf

BK1402151791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 14 (AFP)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Thursday the casualties in a U.S. air raid on a Iraqi shelter showed that war will always make victims of innocent civilians.

"It only shows that no matter what, war always result in civilian victims, innocent victims... Even though the war, as the U.S. always says, is only directed towards military targets," Mr. Alatas said.

Such incidents only strenghten the determination of the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM) to seek a way out to end the war, he said.

He was speaking shortly after his arrival from Belgrade, where he had attended a meeting of 15 NAM foreign ministers in an attempt to find ways to peacefully end the almost one month-old conflict.

Iraq said Thursday that 94 bodies had been pulled from the wreckage of a civilian air raid shelter in Baghdad, where hundreds of people had sought refuge, which was destroyed in an allied bombing raid.

Allied commanders insisted the facility housed a military command and control center and was a legitimate target.

Antiwar March Ends in Scuffle in Jakarta

BK1402065891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 14 (AFP)—Security forces arrested at least six protestors following an anti-war march here Thursday and struck an American woman who photographed the arrests, witnesses said.

Around 20 youths from the so-called Anti War Committee marched under a drizzle past the U.S., French, British and Japanese Embassies with banners condemning the involvement of these countries in the Gulf war.

As soon as the march ended, police forced four women and two men who took part in the march into a waiting jeep, witnesses said.

Security officers later chased Claudia d'Andrea, a former aid worker from the United States seen photographing the arrests, who ran into an office building and locked herself in a toilet, they said.

The officers forced her out and grabbed her handbag as Miss D'andrea screamed for help and yelled "they hit me." Witnesses said they saw the woman being struck.

Later, as she was waiting for the police to return her bag, she told reporters that she disagreed with the Gulf war.

The protestors earlier presented a statement to officials at the three embassies entitled "No to multinational imperialism."

"The Gulf war is a war between rich and poor countries, between the opressed and the oppressor," said the statement.

The United Nations was "a mere tool to further the dirty interests of the United States," it said.

As they marched through the Jakarta traffic surrounded by anti- riot police, the protestors chanted "Allahu Akbar (God is Great)" and "Dissolve the U.N."

Their banners carried such as "Go to Hell America, Crush Bush" in reference to U.S. President George Bush.

One banner read "Long Live Saddam" and two protestors donned t- shirts with a picture of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and an inscription "Destroy imperialism and Zionism."

It was the second anti-war protest in Indonesia this week. More than 100 students demonstrated in the West Java town of Bandung on Wednesday, according to press reports.

Indonesia, the world's largest Moslem nation, has maintained neutrality in the current Gulf war, deploring the use of military but also urging Iraq to end its occupation of Kuwait.

Government and military officials have repeatedly urged the public not to get too emotional over the war, stressing that it was not a war between Moslems and non-Moslems.

Laos

Youth Union Convenes Fourth Plenary Session

BK1402110691 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 14 (KPL)—The Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union yesterday convened here its 4th plenary meeting, which will last 3 days.

The meeting has brought together 94 youth delegates from various central institutions and provinces across the country. The purpose of the session is to review the youth's activities and exchange opinions on the development of youth's organizations in contribution to the overall national development in line with the party-state restructuring policy and strategy.

Ms. Thongvin Phomvihan, its first secretary, in her inaugural speech, spoke of the role and duty of the youth organisation and its members at all levels, stressing on contribution by youths to building and improving the public facilities infrastructure and to promoting agricultural production and others.

SRV Ambassador Holds Traditional Tet Function

BK1402110491 Vientiane KPL in English 0924 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 14 (KPL)—Ambassador Nguyen Xuan of Vietnam to Laos, on February 12 evening hosted at his embassy a function in anticipation of the Vietnamese new year-Tet.

Attending the "Tet" party were Minister Saman Vignaket of education and sports, other ministers, deputy-ministers and some Lao senior officials.

Also on hand were heads of the diplomatic mission [and] representatives of the international organisations in Laos.

Kaysone Phomvihan Greets New Japanese Ambassador

BK1402110291 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 14 (KPL)—Mr. Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers, on February 12 granted here an audience to Mr. Shigemi Ando, new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Laos.

Talking to his guest, the CM [Council of Ministers] chairman highly valued the fruitful development over the years of the Lao-Japanese relations in different domains which he gave credits to the Japanese ambassadors accredited to Laos.

The two personalities discussed ways aimed at increasing development of the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation.

Mr. Shigemi Ando has assumed his ambassadorial post in Laos since last July.

Trade Delegation Returns From Vietnam Visit

BK1302151391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] On 11 February in Hanoi, Dong Sy Nguyen, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam, received and held a cordial conversation with the delegation of the Lao Ministry of Trade and Tourism, led by Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha, which paid a working visit to Vietnam. Vietnamese Commerce Minister Hoang Minh Thang and Tran Hoan, minister of culture, information, sports, and tourism, were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, Dong Sy Nguyen hailed the Lao delegation's visit to Vietnam and expressed the hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two sides will be further strengthened and expanded.

On the same day, Hoang Minh Thang and Khamphoui Keoboualapha signed an agreement on goods exchange and payments for the 1991-95 period and a protocol on goods exchange and payments for 1991. At the same time, Tran Hoan and Khamphoui Keoboualapha also signed an agreement on tourism cooperation between the two countries for the 1991-93 period.

During its stay in Vietnam, the delegation of the Lao Ministry of Trade and Tourism paid visits to many places in Hanoi and Quang Nam-Danang Province. On 12 February, it ended its visit there and returned home.

Philippines

'No Visa, No Entry' Policy on Mideast Nationals

HK1402043591 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 14 Feb 91 p 8

[By Joey Caburnida]

[Text] The government will slam the door on visiting Iraqis, Jordanians and Palestinians who fail to present visas issued by Philippine consulates abroad.

The tough immigration policy, aimed at preventing the entry of international terrorists, will also affect non-Arab aliens whose travel papers will be thoroughly scrutinized before they are allowed to either enter or leave the country.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the "no visa, no entry" policy on some Middle East nationals was recommended by the inter-agency panel made up of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Cabinet Cluster E which deals with national security.

Domingo yesterday ordered immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) and other ports of entry to strictly implement the new policy and to extensively examine travel documents of arriving and departing foreigners.

Domingo said the government was not trying to harass or embarrass Iraqis, Jordanians and Palestinians. Records of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) showed that as of last month, there were 50 Iraqis, 121 Palestinians, and 915 Jordanians staying in the country. Most of them were students.

Domingo explained that the strict security measure was merely part of the bureau's efforts to discourage terrorists from entering the country.

She said that since last year, the BID has received reports that Iraqi terrorists, as well as pro-Iraqi radicals, would use stolen or missing passports of different nationalities to enter other countries and launch terrorisms against citizens and facilities owned by the United States and its allies in the Gulf war.

Domingo quoted international intelligence reports showing that at least 140 blank Ethiopian passports, 12 of which are classified as diplomatic, are in the hands of Arab terrorist groups. The terrorists are also said to be in possession of some Mauritian, Egyptian, Saudi Arabian, Belgian and Spanish passports.

Last year, about 20,000 Kuwaiti passports were reportedly seized by Iraqi soldiers after they invaded the tiny nation on Aug. 2. The passports were believed to have been distributed to terrorists supporting the call for global terrorism by Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn.

Spokesman on Reported Enlistments in Saudi Army

HK1402055291 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Presidential spokesman Adolf Azcuna said it would be a big mistake if a report stating that about 400 Filipino overseas contract workers [OCW's] have joined the Saudi Arabian Army to fight against Iraqi troops is true. This was Azcuna's reaction to a disclosure by PHILIPPINE STAR columnist Maximo Soliven that 4,000 [as heard] Filipino OCW's have enlisted in the Saudi National Guard, and another 1,000 are being trained to become soldiers in the multinational coalition in the Middle East.

According to Azcuna, the Department of Labor has been investigating this matter for a long time, but up to now, it still cannot confirm if this is true or not. Azcuna said that if this report is true, the Saudi Government is committing a violation because the OCW's are there to work and not to participate in the Middle East war.

Panel Member on Abducted American's Location

HK1402060491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0525 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Report from Radyo ng Bayan Tuguegarao, Cagayan]

[Text] A member of the Harvey Duane Brown negotiating panel today confirmed they had received reports regarding the confirmed place where the American prisoner is being kept. According to the reliable source, who refused to be identified, the lead has been deduced from the demands being sought and relayed by Brown's abductors. Although the source did not directly diclose the demands, it is believed these could be firearms in exchange for the American's release. According to the source, the abductors had moved their captive to an identified place located between the towns of Lallo and Sta. Teresita in the northeastern part of Cagayan. No date has been set yet for another meeting by the negotiating panel following this development. In this connection, the panel is optimistic for the release of the American prisoner after the abductors' demands are considered and met.

Editorial Calls Bases Talks 'Snow Job'

HK1402044491 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Bases snow job"]

[Text] The Philippine and U.S. panels in the ongoing bases negotiations are giving us a snow job by trading irrelevant statistics on how much one partner has benefitted from the other because of the two countries' longstanding close relations.

When the final talks opened last Monday, the U.S. panel presented its proposed compensation package for the continued stay of the bases after September this year. The next day, the Philippine panel presented its own proposal. As of yesterday, no one has bothered to tell the people the figures in both proposals. These are the figures that matter, not the statistics on trade and investments (cited by the U.S. panel) much less the cost of educating the thousands of Filipinos who have gone, in search of a better life, to the United States (cited by the Philippine side).

U.S. panel spokesman Stanley Schrager apparently sparked off all the accounting nonsense when he noted that whatever figure is arrived at as compensation for continued use of the bases. "It represents only a small fraction of the overall bilateral relations which we estimate to be between $6 to $8 billion dollars per year."

Schrager's billions include trade, investments, purhcases, salaries of base workers, and economic and military assistance.

Taking exception to Schrager's estimate, pinch-hitting Philippine panel spokesman Raul Rabe said the computation should include the thousands of Filipinos who have immigrated to the United States, an added dimension to Philippine foreign relations that Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus introduced with much fanfare in a "policy speech" Feb. 1, a pompous oratorical piece which was completely forgettable if not for his reference to the U.S. as the constable of the world.

Rabe added that the immigrants "are now contributing to the U.S. economy in a very direct manner to the extent that Mr. Manglapus thinks that we are an overall aid giver to the U.S." to the tune of $23 billion.

The way both panels are counting the ordinary benefits from normal relations between the two countries, one would think they are negotiating about continued trade and investment relations and entry of Filipinos into the U.S.. They are not. They are discussing arrangements for continued U.S. use at Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four other minor facilities and how much the Philippines should get for hosting the U.S. forces. That's all.

The spokesmen of both panels should get back on track by telling the people what is happening in the negotiations instead of dishing out meaningless figures. People have this creeping suspicion that the talks are lutong makaw [cooked-up deal] and everything's over but the signing. More openness on the part of the negotiators, especially on the issue of compensation where there clearly are wide differences between the U.S. offer and the Philippine demand, would go a long way towards convincing the people that whatever agreement is eventually reached, it is the result of genuine accommodation between two contentious parties, each honestly seeking to find a common ground in pursuit of their respective national interests.

Secretary Says PRC To Supply Additional Oil

HK1402045591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 14 Feb 91 p 8

[Text] The People's Republic of China [PROC] will supply the Philippines with an additional 300,000 metric tons of crude oil to help alleviate the country's current supply difficulties, acting Trade and Industry Secretary Peter D. Garrucho said yesterday.

Garrucho made the announcement based on a report of DTI [Department of Trade and Industry] Undersecretary Francisco V. del Rosario who recently visited the PROC to review the 1991 Philippines-PROC trade protocol.

This new shipment of Shengli crude is in addition to the 220,000 metric tons of crude earlier included as part of a 1991 trade and economic assistance package offered to the country by PROC Prime Minister Li Peng during his official visit to the country last December.

"The crude oil will be payable in 180 days without bank interest," Garrucho said.

Under the agreement, the state-owned Philippine National Oil Company will import the crude from Sinochem, the PROC's export trading arm for oil products.

Based on industry data, Shengli crude, being of heavy petroleum make, will basically be used as industrial fuel. The National Power Corp. has also used this type of fuel for burning to generate power and for operating thermal plants.

Del Rosario reported that trade officials from PROC will be in Manila by the last week of February to negotiate pertinent points of the 1991 Philippines-PROC trade protocol which includes not only the supply of oil but also the donation of 100 new buses.

Finance Secretary Sees Economic Policy Shift

HK1402043691 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English . 14 Feb 91 pp 1, 5

[By Alex B. Reyes]

[Text] Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao yesterday said the country will emphasize trade and investments to finance its growth rather than rely on foreign loans and aid.

"I would like to make it very clear that the policy of the Philippines is to get away from over-dependence on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and commercial bank debt, and move much more strongly in the direction of investment money and trade flows particularly through exports," he said in a press conference.

Mr Estanislao said without the changeover to export- and investments-led growth, economic expansion will remain erratic and unsustainable.

"The Philippines cannot proceed on a steadier growth path unless we address the issues that have bedeviled our investment and trade flows," he stressed.

He added, "I think the major effort of the Philippines now should go for investments and trade flows because they are the more permanent, more respectable and more economically meaningful ways of growing. We cannot grow forever on the basis of ODA and loans from commercial banks."

He said assurances have been given that the foreign investment liberalization bill authored by Senator Vicente T. Paterno will pass the Senate at the end of this month. A similar measure in the Lower House by Rep. Margarito Teves (Negros Oriental) is also nearing final approval.

Mr Estanislao said the country's economic program, which will help lay the ground work for and reorient the economy towards investment and export-oriented growth, is now getting full support from the international community.

The support is coming because "we now have a macroeconomic program that makes sense," he remarked, adding that the important factor in the country's favor is Government's determination to face up to its fiscal deficit problem.

He noted that no many governments in the world are doing what the Philippines is doing in terms of drastic expenditure cuts and painful new taxes.

"We've been accused of lacking political will. This is a show of political will."

He said righting Government's deficit through the stabilization program may entail costs, "but if we do not address it now with the pain that it entails, what will happen is going to be even more painful economic circumstances that we'll have to put on our people."

"So it's better to go through with this program now rather than suffer more inflation and greater instability."

Mr Estanislao observed in terms of the overall adjustment program, "the tough times are already here," although the recent reduction in international oil prices is giving the economy a breather.

"I would like to think that the worst is over," he said.

Editorial Overviews Advantages of Countertrade

HK1402045091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Countertrade offers one alternative to new loans"]

[Text] The dismal and discouraging result of the Tokyo, New York, Paris and London mission by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia simply makes official what many students of our chaotic economy have suspected all along.

New money for the Philippines will be hard to come by given the current worldwide recession (thank you, Saddam Husayn) and the billions of dollars major American banks hold in non-collectible Third World loans.

This is a fact we must face, our rhetoric and rubic on the imperialist designs of the WB-IMF [World Bank-International Monetary Fund] notwithstanding.

Given the political gusts emanating from both the U.S. and Philippine Congress on the country's foreign debt problem, foreign bankers naturally are chilled by the thought of lending a sizeable fortune to a probable welcher. Why lend money to someone who threatens not to pay?

Which is why any talk about a debt cap, debt condonation and debt repudiation from this side of the Pacific will only serve to raise the ante. In effect, what foreign bankers now say they want is for the international financial institutions to share some of the risk entailed in lending to the Philippines, since loans co-financed by multilateral lenders are not subject to congressional proposals for either a cap on debt servicing or debt moratorium.

As Estanislao put it: "They certainly don't want to be caught in a situation where they will not be paid for the money that they are lending...so what they are saying now is we would like to have additional guarantees." Bankers, after all, are in the business of making money.

This is not to say we don't believe in debt relief. On the contrary. But given the intransigence on the bankers' side and our reluctance to make good the debt threat, as well as our continuing and even urgent need for fresh dollars to shore up our dwindling reserves, it is time our finance managers and political leaders sat down together to plot alternative routes from the either-or proposition of servicing our debts in full (and sacrificing basic services); or declaring a moratorium on payments (and risking a total cutoff of foreign credit).

One such alternative is countertrade with neighboring countries and Socialist states, countries in a foreign exchange fix like us and presumably willing to take part in trade where precious dollars don't have to change hands.

The opening provided by visiting Chinese Premier Li Peng last December, in which he offered to provide us with 100 "free" buses and nine days' supply of crude oil in concessional terms should have been pursued more aggressively, and other avenues of cooperation and possible "barter" explored.

Given our energy and financing crunch, the offer made by Moscow in 1988 and 1989 to establish a coal-fueled power plant in exchange for Philippine copra and coconut oil is definitely worth reviving. We are sure similar offers from other governments have been made, and our economic planners and policy makers would do well to study all of them and choose which are still worth pursuing.

After all, any dollar saved on countertrade is a dollar less on future debt.

And given the debt burden that threatens to crush our struggling economy, any measure that would chip away at this growing problem is welcome and urgently needed.

Trade Deficit Surpasses $4 Billion Mark in 1990

HK1402045391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 14 Feb 91 pp 1, 2

[By Grace C. Sison, researcher]

[Text] The Philippines turned in its worst trade performance so far last year, with the trade deficit surpassing the $4-billion mark, as sluggish exports, strong dependence on imported goods and the heavy oil import bill continued to plague the country. Analysts said prospects for closing the trade gap this year were remote.

The National Statistics Office (NSO), in its monthly international trade update, yesterday reported that the country's merchandise trade gap—the difference between export earnings and import payments—climbed to a new high of $4.009 billion last year, exceeding by $1.363 billion the 1982 record-high deficit of $2.646 billion. The 1990 trade imbalance marked a whopping 54.31 percent jump from the $2.598-billion negative trade posted the previous year.

On a month-to-month basis, the trade imbalance reached $300 million last December, the second straight year of consistent negative trade. The December 1990 level almost doubled the previous year's recorded negative trade of $171 million.

NSO Administrator Tomas P. Africa said 60 out of the 23,849 export entries and 45 out of 26,266 import documents for December were still expected from ports outside Metro Manila.

Industry analysts cited various factors for the country's burgeoning trade deficit in 1990, notably the oil price shock, the weakening value of the peso vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar, higher wage costs that made exports less competitive in the international market, and the overall dismal performance of the export sector.

"The mounting tension in the Persian Gulf, going on its seventh month now, has sent imports soaring to high levels, a situation compounded further by the foreign exchange crisis caused by the higher crude oil prices," one analyst said.

This single factor pushed the import payments of the country to $12.159 billion last year, up by 16.70 percent from the previous year's level of $10.419 billion.

Last year's burdensome outflow of imported goods was aggravated by the heavy importation of capital goods during the second quarter of last year, reflecting the accelerated demand for power-generating and specialized machines, the government's import liberalization program, and the arrival into the country of imported goods, particularly luxury items. It can be noted that the country experienced daily brownouts during the period under review, forcing many firms to buy the needed machines to continue their operations.

Even without the Gulf conflict, many analysts believe the trade imbalance will remain high as the country continues to be dependent on imported products.

The NSO listed the following as the leading import products last year: mineral fuel, lubricants and related materials ($1,834.36 million); machinery other than electric ($1,407.21 million); electric machinery, apparatuses and appliances ($997.45 million); materials and accessxories imported on consignment basis for the manufacture of semiconductor devices ($882.67 million); transport equipment ($815.18 million); base metals ($745.23 million); textile yarn, fabrics, make-up articles and related products ($546.7 million); explosives and miscellaneous chemical materials and products ($490.61 million); cereals and cereal preparations ($459.83 million); and chemical elements and compounds ($438.37 million).

On a monthly basis, the import sector recorded a slowdown following the foreign exchange crunch experienced during the last quarter of the year. November's import payments of $1.044 billion fell by 1.36 percent to $1.03 billion in December. However, the slowdown in imports is not expected to narrow the huge trade gap as exports have fared poorly.

Weaker prices of Philippine goods in the world market coupled with higher labor costs, the unstable political climate, and the slowdown in the economies of the country's major trading partners resulted in a very slight 4.21 percent increase in export earnings last year. From $7.821 billion worth of exports in 1989, the figure rose by $329 million to $8.15 billion last year.

The leading dollar earners last year included the following with their corresponding free-on-board values: articles of apparel and clothing accessories ($1,768.88 million); electronics and components ($1,508.86-million); crude and refined coconut oil ($359 million); bars, rods and stabs, neither polished, coated nor unworked, of copper ($280.65 million); woodcraft and furniture ($255.87 million); fresh, chilled and forzen shrimps and prawns ($214.57 million); copper concentrates ($206.58 million); fresh bananas ($148.87 million); pineapple and pineapple products ($138.92 million); and petroleum products ($131.98 million).

The weakening of the peso during the latter part of last year, which benefited the export sector as it boosted the country's competitive stance in the world market, slightly helped but still failed to hoist the country's overall export sales. Last December, export sales totaled to $730 million, up by 7.85 percent from the previous month's earnings of $677 million.

Private Businessmen Report on Gulf War Effect

HK1402045191 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Feb 91 pp 1, 8

[By Danny Petilla]

[Text] Leaders of private business yesterday reported to President Aquino that the economy has turned from bad to worse in the first quarter of 1991.

Aurelio Periquet Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry [PCCI], told Ms. Aquino in Malacanang that the Gulf war has adversely affected key sectors of the economy.

Expressing the view of private business, Periquet revealed that except for agriculture and infrastructure, other key sectors of the economy like finance, tourism, labor and export markets have registered very sharp declines.

Periquet also said remittances of overseas contract workers from the Middle East have dropped by $1.4 billion, aggravating further the lack of dollar reserves to finance vital imports.

He said the delay in the release of some $700 million in new loans from the International Monetary Fund will result in a dollar shortage, with the government relying mainly on its $200-million reserve which is good for only six months.

But Periquet said that despite a 16-percent inflation rate, the economy can still bounce back and register a 2-percent growth by yearend.

He said billions of pesos in election money floated this early will perk up the economy.

"One thing about this election spending is that money will be repatriated from overseas accounts to the country and this will mean more dollars coming back and higher purchasing power for the people," Periquet said.

Periquet said the PCCI sees the exchange rate at P [peso] 29 to P30 to a dollar at the end of the year.

"We subscribed to the principle that the peso will eventually seek its own level," he said.

"But the situation is very fluid. It will really depend on how structural adjustments are put in place in the economy)," Periquet said.

For her part, Ms. Aquino assured the business leaders who called on her in Malacanang that the government is exerting all efforts to correct the bloated budget deficit and meet economic growth targets set by the National Economic and Development Authority.

House Cites Reforms To Cut IMF Dependence

HK1402043791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 14 Feb 91 pp 1, 5

[By Benjamin Cruz]

[Text] Can the country live without the International Monetary Fund? In so many words, Rep. Margarito Teves of Negros Oriental, chairman of the House economic affairs committee, says no. Not yet.

"At this point, we cannot do without the IMF imprimatur," he said.

Without the official IMF nod on RP's [Republic of the Philippines] economic program and consequently no release of the $700-million loan package, further loans from international creditors cannot be procured. The country might then have to trade on a cash basis, an option cash-strapped Government cannot afford.

In an interview with BUSINESS WORLD, Rep. Teves said the dependence should be cut eventually. To do this, he said Government should push for "unpopular and painful but necessary" structural reforms on the economy.

10 REFORMS

The House committee on economic affairs is expected to push for at least ten structural reforms, to wit:

Reduce financial intermediation costs to enable banks to bring down their lending rates; removal of gross receipts tax and withholding tax on interbank deposits;

Mr. Teves also reiterated the stand of both his committee and the Congressional Planning and Budget Office to offer T-bill rates to the lower and middle income groups "to promote more competition in the financial system;"

Restructure tariffs towards the promotion of high value added, export-oriented industries "to force local producers to be more competitive" and make use of local raw materials where the country has the competitive advantage;

Push a new, more liberal investment policy. The Supreme Court should not be allowed to have a say on investments.

This move was apparently triggered by the recent decision of the High Tribunal to effect the transfer of the multi-million petrochemical plant investment from Batangas to Bataan. The investors of this plant, who favored Batangas, decided to pull out their investment;

Abolish the Board of Investments if it cannot be reoriented from its current regulatory thrust into a promotions entity;

Complement a bill capturing the remittances of overseas contract workers now mostly in the hands of couriers with guidelines allowing banks to recapture more of these earnings;

Reduce the consolidated fiscal sector deficit, improve tax collection effeciency and accelerate the sale of government assets and trim the bureaucracy;

Increase agricultural productivity through improved support services like more access to credit, better infrastructure, more extension programs, reduced spoilage and post-harvest losses, and market-pricing of agricultural produce;

Eliminate various infrastructure bottlenecks;

Allow domestic oil prices to adjust to levels that reflect the true cost of oil to its final end-users;

Stop the oil subsidy and free the resources for infrastructure and livelihood programs;

Pursue "more innovative" and market-based debt reduction schemes and continue to negotiate for maximum debt relief.

Rep. Teves said these are the reforms Government should be pursuing "or we will be truly the basket case of Asia."

The Teves committee will conduct a public hearing this afternoon to discuss the Economic Stabilization Program as outlined in the Letter of Intent submitted to the International Monetary Fund containing some of these and other structural reforms.

Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia, Jr. and Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao will brief the committee on these financial reforms.

Bishop, Governor Implicated as NPA Supporters

HK1302050191 Quezon City MALAYA in English 13 Feb 91 p 7

[By Froilan Gallardo]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City—A provincial governor [gov.] and a Roman Catholic bishop were implicated by a ranking rebel-returnee for allegedly supporting the leftist insurgency movement in Lamao del Norte.

Alegario Villarin alias Kumander [Commander] Elmer, identified the communist rebel supporters as Lanao del Norte Gov. Francisco Abalos and Iligan Bishop Fernando Capalla during a media conference shortly after he and six of his men surrendered Monday to the military at Camp Edilberte Evangelista.

Villarin, who was district commander of Front 17-A of the New People's Army Northwestern Mindanao Party Committee, claimed that sometime in 1989 Abalos sent sacks of rice and boxes of sardines, loaded aboard his weapons carrier, to the rebels. The governor also allegedly gave two Acom radio sets to Villarin's guerilla unit during the fighting lull in 1986.

Bishop Capalla, on the other hand, allegedly aided the rebels by interceding for their release if they were ever captured by the military.

The rebels cited the incident when a Sparrow hitman, codenamed Jimmy, and alleged communist organizer Ike de los Reyes were captured by the military in separate raids in 1988. Bishop Capalla, the rebels said, interceded for their release.

Bishop Capalla was the chief government negotiator during the negotiations for the release of 21 Army and PC [Philippine Constabulary] soldiers captured by rebels in Surigao del Sur and Davao del Norte last May.

Asked to comment on the rebels' allegations, the military said that they will investigate them adding that their statements only strengthened intelligence findings that there was indeed a number of prominent personalities aiding the insurgents.

Brig. Gen. Quentin Alcudia, 4th Infantry Division chief, said he will forward their findings to other government agencies to handle the matter.

The other rebel returnees were Rufino and Orlando Villarin, Edelfo Palanos, Loreto Martobillas, Carmelo and Senon Bronco.

Governor Denies Support

HK1402043891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Feb 91 p 7

[By Froilan Gallardo]

[Text] Iligan City—Lanao del Norte Gov. Francisco Abalos denied being a rebel supporter and said the charge made by rebel returnees was orchestrated by a ranking military official whose illegal logging activities he exposed.

"How can I be a CCP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] supporter when I am a public official?" Abalos said. "I am also a landowner. These run counter to the communist ideology," he added.

He said he doesn't have a weapons carrier which rebel returnees said they used in the supply runs.

Abalos said the "Red-tagging" by the military could be in retaliation for his filing of charges of illegal logging against brig. Gen. Antonio Nale, Task Force Diamond chief.

He suspected Nale, now under investigation by the Senate committee on defense, to be behind the Red tag.

Nale also was reportedly protecting illegal sawmills in Lanao del Norte.

Recently a Department of Environment and Natural Resources team intercepted a shipment of illegal logs which Nale claimed was to be used for the military camp.

Abalos added that it was on record that "I have been cooperating with the military here and I have been insistent on the deployment of more troops in the province to contain insurgency in the area."

Nale had accused Abalos of coddling communist rebels who, he said, were seen riding with him in his vehicles.

"You can shoot them on sight." Abalos told Nale.

Abalos added that he welcomed any investigation by the military to clear his name.

Abalos was one of the government negotiators during the 1986 ceasefire agreement between the government and the rebels.

NPA Warns of 'Heightened' Attacks in Zambales

HK1402043991 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Feb 91 p 7

[By Dolores Mose]

[Text] Iba, Zambales.—The Alvarez-Peralta Command (APC) of the New People's Army [NPA] operating within the Zambales- Pangasinan area, warned of heightened attacks against what it called "enemies of the people" as it claimed responsibility for the ambuscade last month of an Army-PNP [Philippine National Police] convoy in Masinloc town.

In a clandestine interview with MALAYA, Ka [Comrade] Lucio Magsaysay, APC spokesman, said they "successfully carried its operation" against a joint team of the 162nd PNP district and the Army's 60th IB [Infantry

Battalion] last Jan. 29 along the Bamban- Sto. Rosario highway of Masinloc, some 30 km from here.

The NPA spokesman claimed the ambush killed three soldiers and wounded three others, but military reports here said only one was killed.

Killed was Army Pfc. [private first class] Marcelo Gravilles, while those wounded were Pfc. Eddie Falle, Senior Police Officer-1 Efren Adaoag, and Police Officer-2 Pedro Algaba. They were heading for Camp Conrado Yap here when they were attacked around 10 a.m. by a band of heavily armed men, the report said.

Ka Lucio also denied reports that the soldiers were not the target of the ambush but some local officials from the northern towns of Zambales who were also heading towards Iba to attend a seminar at the military camp there.

Ka Lucio said the Alpha Company of the 60th IB now based at Lucapon North, Sta. Cruz town, was the former 14th IB which had the most records for massacre in Mindanao, and which was also involved in the slaying of 19 people in the 1987 massacre in Lupao, Nueva Ecija.

Meanwhile, at least four teams from the 132nd and 162nd PNP District, and the 60th IB, including one CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] company, are now engaged in a massive operation along the mountains of north Zambales in an attempt to rid the province of insurgents.

General Reports on Insurgency Casualties in Bicol

HK1402110091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Southern Luzon Command Chief Brigadier General Federico Ruiz Jr reported that 228 communist rebels were killed in various clashes in Bicol and Southern Luzon last year. Forty-two soldiers died in the 290 recorded clashes between government troops and communist rebels.

Case Against Marcos' Lawyer Reopened

HK0702112291 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 7 Feb 91

[By Ron Bayani]

[Text] The Justice Department has reopened the rebellion case against lawyer Rafael Recto. This is in connection with his participation in the seizure of the Manila Hotel during the July 1986 coup attempt.

Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon designated Assistant State Prosecutor Aurelio Trampe to undertake preliminary investigations into the case of rebellion against Recto, based on the recommendation of the Davide Factfinding Commission, so as to carefully evaluate the activities of those involved in the Manila Hotel incident in 1986.

Recently, President Aquino instructed Secretary Drilon to give priority to the three recommendations of the Davide Commission including the Manila Hotel incident.

Records show that former Senator Arturo Tolentino swore in as president of the Philippines on 6 July 1986, at the Manila Hotel. The said hotel was allegedly secured by renegade soldier Lieutenant Colonel Reynaldo Cabauatan, as 3,000 loyalists witnessed the oath- taking rites.

Military Claims Killings in Camarines Solved

HK1102035791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Feb 91 p 8

[By Jen Jorvina]

[Text] Daet, Camarines Norte—Military authorities expressed yesterday the belief that several killings in the towns of Labo and Paracale, this province have been solved with the slaying of three New People's Army (NPA) rebels by elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in barangay mahawan-hawan, Labo last week.

Lt. Col. Manuel P. Porras, Camarines Norte PNP chief, identified the slain rebels as Ronaldo A. Casco, alias "Ka [Comrade] Jimbo," 26, of barangay Bula-Bula Grande, Ligao, Albay; Wilfredo Canopin of barangay San Isidro, Libmanan, Camarines Sur; and Salvador R. Taduran, 23, of Purok 9, barangay IV, Manabag, Daet, this province.

Colonel Porras said that "Ka Jimbo" was a notorious NPA killer in Camarines Norte and vice commander of Samahang Yunit Pang-propaganda [Propaganda Unit] (SYP) Aguila under codenamed "Abe."

He said that Jimbo's group was responsible for the several atrocities, including the liquidation of some soldiers.

He said that PNP personnel led by 1st Lt. Camilo Batulan of 246th PNP company and P/Lt. Pio M. Capistrano engaged the rebels in 10- minute firefight.

The clash resulted in the killing of the three NPA rebels and seizure of some firearms and subversive documents.

Former Major Purgganan Gets 12-Years Hard Labor

HK0702110691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Feb 91

[By Eloi Aquino of Unit 12]

[Text] This morning, General Court Martial No. 9 headed by Brigadier General Raul Imperial, formally sentenced former Army Major Abraham Purugganan to 12 years imprisonment at hard labor, expulsion from service, and cancellation of all benefits, for conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman, and involvement in the August 1987 coup attempt. Purugganan was convicted in absentia last December 1990, together with

80 other military officers and men, for involvement in the December 1987 coup attempt.

In relation to this, Military Prosecutor Colonel Aniano Desierto said Purugganan will face two other cases for his participation in the failed December 1989 coup and in the failed bomb attempt of the Basa Air Base last December 1990.

[Begin Desierto recording in English, in progress]...the Floridablanca Air Base incident discovered by the [word indistinct] the latest of a coup plot. Now, with respect to the, his participation in the 1989, December 1989 coup, where he prominently figured in the seige of Makati Commercial District, he is being investigated now. In preparation to charging most of [word indistinct] before the court martial, another offense is [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Rebel Officers Turn State Witnesses

HK1402044791 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Feb 91 pp 1, 9

[By Fe B. Zamora]

[Text] Two senior Army officers facing rebellion charges have agreed to turn state witnesses against several rebel soldiers facing the same charges, a military lawyer said yesterday.

They were Lt. Col. Franklin Brawner and Lt. Col. Jacinto Ligot.

Col. Aniano Disierto, the deputy judge advocate general, told the INQUIRER that for turning state witnesses, the rebellion charges against the two have been dropped.

Disierto said another officer, Capt. Roberto Rocio, has also agreed to turn state witness although he was yet to be charged before a military court.

In exchange, no charge will be filed against Rocio, who has been released from detention, Disierto added.

Brawner, Ligot and Rocio will be the first military officers who have agreed to testify against their former putsch comrades. They were charged for their alleged involvement in the December 1989 coup attempt.

In another development, other sources said fugitive rightwing military rebel leaders Gregorio Honasan and Domingo Calajate have ordered their followers to "go on their own."

The order was issued just before former Army maj. Abraham Purugganan was captured by government troops in Makati last week, said the sources, who requested anonymity.

"Magkanya-kanya na lang muna (Let everybody go on his own for the meantime)," the sources quoted Honasan as saying. The order was made apparently as the rebel soldiers have run out of funds, the sources added.

Disierto said the rebellion charges against Brawner and Ligot would be reinstated if they failed to do their part as state witnesses.

Earlier, the Army chief, maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, said Brawner, Ligot and Rocio have been cleared by a special investigating committee that had looked into their alleged participation in the December 1989 coups attempt.

In that uprising, Brawner, then Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for personnel, and Ligot, then Army deputy chief of staff for operations, were seen at the First Scout Rangers Regiment compound wearing the rebel countersigns.

Abadia said they wore the rebel countersigns "for safely reasons and for convenience since they were held hostage."

Rocio, then the signal officer of the regiment, was reported to have attended a meeting among rebel soldiers on the eve of the coup attempt. But investigation later showed he was not in the meeting, but in the hospital for severe chest pains.

Ligot and Brawner, with 19 others, were arraigned and charged before the General Court Martial No. 14 with mutiny, multiple murder and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman last year.

Among those charged with them were Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando, Navy Capt. Danilo Ison, Navy Capt. Danilo Pizarro, Col. Luisito Sanchez, Lt. Col. Romeliro Gojo, Lt. Col. Rafael Galvez, Lt. Col. Ericson Aurelio, Lt. Col. Arsenio Tecson, Lt. Col. Tiburcio Fusillero. Maj. Alfredo Oliveros, Maj. Leuvino Valencia, Maj. Cesar de la Pena, Capt. Danilo Lim, Capt. Florencio Flores, Capt. Benigno Junio, Capt. Elaner Amon, Capt. Vergel Nacino and Ilt. Joey Sarroza.

Brawner's elder brother, retired Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner, was also charged by a civilian court for alleged involvement in the coup attempt.

The December uprising, the sixth and bloodiest attempt to oust President Aquino, saw the deaths of 118 soldiers and civilians.

Muslim 'Lost Command' Leaders Sought

HK1202042191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Feb 91 p 12

[By Robert R. Requintina]

[Text] Police authorities in Cotabato has launched a manhunt for three former leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) "Lost Command" believed responsible for the series of kidnappings here.

Philippine National Police [PNP] chief Cesar P. Nazareno directed over the weekend Col. Rogelio Martin, PNP regional command [recom] 12 chief, and Lt. Col. Domingo Reyes, commanding officer of the Cotabato

Metropolitan District Command, to spearhead "Task Force Kutabato," in coordination with Army Col. Antonio Limon.

Nazareno ordered the manhunt after Recom 12 authorities came out with an order of battle listing three former MNLF leaders as those behind the kidnaping-for-ransom of at least four walthy traders in the past weeks.

The suspects were identified as Abugado Bago alias Kumander [Commander] Mubarak, Jimmy Ambulodto and Farsal Maruhom.

Ambulotdo and Maruhom were earlier charged with kidnaping before the Cotabato City court. They were believed to be the principal henchmen of Mubarak, who reportedly heads a 100-strong former MNLF members turned bandits.

In his briefing for PNP director general, Col. Jocelin Nazareno, chief of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade based in Cotabato City, said that the syndicate had already extorted about P [Philippine peso] 12 million from relatives of the traders earlier abducted.

The Army has been tasked to secure the areas surrounding the Cotabato Metropolitan District jurisdiction.

On the other hand, the PNP will secure the interior portion of the city particularly the section where traders reside.

Nazareno, meanwhile, assured political leaders and residents of Cotabato of security.

The PNP chief pointed out that the abductions (by the suspects) in Cotabato City were perpetrated by criminal elements and do not have political undertones.

10 Killed by Communist Rebels in Aurora

HK1402105691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Ten persons, seven military men and three civilians, were confirmed dead when communist rebels staged an ambush in Sitio Siam, Barangay Villa, San Luis, Aurora Province. Jean Bilasano has the details:

[Begin recording] The report that reached the office of Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno said that the Philippine Army operatives were conducting a search and rescue operation in connection with the missing plane of Aurora Governor (Luis Goqueco) when an undetermined number of rebels attacked them. The incident took place at 10:30 A.M. yesterday while the soldiers, led by Lieutenant Urbano, were on board a civilian Isuzu truck.

It will be recalled that the plane the governor was in crashed last Tuesday [12 Feb] after it left from Magsasay, Laur, Nueva Ecija at 9:15 A.M. The aircraft was headed for Aurora Province. [end recording]

Thailand

Chatchai Meets Khmer Rouge's Khieu Samphan

BK1302150391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Under the Thai Government's coordination to encourage leaders of the four Khmer factions to attend the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC], a second round of meetings took place today between Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan and DK [Democratic Kampuchea] leader Khieu Samphan. They met over lunch at the Regent Hotel in Bangkok. The purpose of the meeting today was to urge the DK to attend the four-party meeting. Khieu Samphan once refused to attend a four-party meeting of the Cambodian factions in Tokyo, and his rejection aborted the negotiations to end the fighting in Cambodia.

At today's meeting, the Thai prime minister was accompanied by M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Sarot Chawanawirat, director general of the Political Department; M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun, spokesman attached to the Prime Minister's Office; and the team of the prime minister's policy advisers from Ban Phitsanulok. On the DK side, Khieu Samphan was accompanied by Vice President Son Sen and Pich Bunret, DK permanent representative to the ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific].

The meeting lasted for more than two hours, with an interval of about 20 minutes during which the DK side exchanged views among themselves concerning certain points in the agreement. After the interval, the Thai prime minister joined them again for talks. After the meeting was over, both sides exchanged congratulations. The Thai prime minister declined to make any comment to reporters, but had the spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office report to journalists on today's success. According to him, Son Sann [as heard] will definitely attend the four-party meeting of the Khmer factions in Jakarta.

[Begin Pridiyathon recording] There is no problem about it. He will certainly attend the meeting. Concerning our proposal for the reconstruction of Cambodia's infrastructure, he already agreed in principle with the reconstruction project as it follows in line with the agreement reached at the United Nations. [end recording]

Khieu Samphan, meanwhile, accepted Thailand's proposal for the reconstruction of Cambodia's economic infrastructure on the condition that it conforms with the agreement expounded by him on 26 November 1990 in Paris.

Earlier in the morning, a representative of the Son Sann faction met with the permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi. The Son Sann faction accepted all proposals made by Thailand in the form in which they were accepted by Prince Norodom

Ranariddh. The Thai Government is scheduled to hold a meeting with the Heng Samrin group on Friday. Hun Sen has assigned his foreign minister, Hor Namhong, to meet the Thai prime minister here.

Khieu Samphan Agrees to SNC Meeting in Jakarta

BK1402014991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Feb 91 p A3

[Text] The Khmer Rouge, the military backbone of the Cambodian resistance coalition, yesterday shied away from giving full support to a reconstruction scheme for Cambodia as proposed by Thailand.

Khieu Samphan, nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge, told reporters after holding intensive discussions with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan that consultation among the resistance factions was needed before there could be any response to the proposal.

Chatchai is consulting with leaders of the four Cambodian factions on the formation of a working group composed of members of the Supreme National Council (SNC), which includes representatives from all of the factions, to discuss the reconstruction programme for the war-torn country prior to a peace settlement.

In the scheme, transportation facilities in Cambodia would be revived to facilitate visits by United Nations peace missions and the repatriation of about 300,000 displaced Cambodians residing in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. This is considered by Thailand as a way to promote cooperation among the warring factions and contribute to the peace process.

A precondition for the Khmer Rouge's cooperation, Khieu said, was that the reconstruction scheme must be incorporated into the peace package drafted by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council which was agreed to by all factions in Paris on Nov 26. If this was done Khieu said his party would be willing join the working group on reconstruction.

Government Spokesman Pridiyathon Thewakun quoted Chatchai as telling the Khmer Rouge leader that his scheme was in line with the UN peace plan and would benefit all the Cambodian factions, and even more the country's people. "We beleive that the Khmer Rouge will eventually lend its support to the reconstruction scheme, which only would involve restoring railroads, highways, airfields and some defunct power plants," said Pridiyathon. The spokesman said Khieu also agreed to a meeting in Jakarta of the SNC, which has been in remission because of disputes over its chairmanship and other matters, as proposed by Indonesia and France. Pridiyathon said the United Nations has set aside $55 million (Bt1.38 billion) for the project and Japan was also willing to give financial assistance.

Prior to the Chatchai-Khieu meeting, Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), met with Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Kasemsamoson Kasemsi to pledge the group's support for Chatchai's proposal. Kasemsamoson said Ieng Mouli had given his group's suport as had Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Ranariddh met with Chatchai on Monday.

Foreign Minister Athit Urairat said yesterday before leaving for Brunei that the rehabilitation scheme for Cambodia could proceed simultaneously with the peace process. Athit said Thailand's hope was that by discussing the reconstruction plan, the SNC members would realize the benefits that they could enjoy through cooperating among themselves. The minister said this would show that the SNC could function without having to wait for a political solution to be found. "This we hope will eventually accelerate the peace process," he added.

On Friday Chatchai is to meet Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, who will lead a delegation from his government to discuss the reconstruction proposal.

Ministry Official Meets Son Sann Representative

BK1302142991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun, spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office, told reporters this morning that Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan had contacted Son Sann, leader of a Khmer faction, for talks in Bangkok in order to persuade Son Sann to attend a meeting of the four Khmer factions. Yesterday, Son Sann replied that he was very pleased the Thai prime minister had invited him for the talks. Since Son Sann was occupied with duties in Paris for the entire week, he said he could not come to meet the prime minister. However, Son Sann knew that the prime minister wanted to meet representatives of all four Khmer factions separately as soon as possible. Therefore, he sent his representative—Ieng Muli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front—to meet the Thai permanent secretary for foreign affairs today.

The details discussed during today's talks dealt with persuading the Son Sann faction to attend a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and the prime minister's proposal for the four Khmer factions to set up a working group to rebuild Cambodia's infrastructure. These were the same issues discussed at the meeting between the prime minister and Prince Ranariddh, representative of Prince Sihanouk's faction.

Markets To Open at Cambodian Border 15 Mar

BK1402022191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Feb 91 p 6

[Text] Aranyaprath[illegible]—Two markets are to open at the Cambodian border on March 15 to allow Thai and Cambodian traders to do business legally.

The decision to open the markets in Ban Non Mak, Ta Phraya and Klong Luek, Aranyaprathet was yesterday adopted at a meeting comprising representatives of the Burapa Task Force, Local Administration Department, Foreign Ministry, Customs Department and the Immigration Division.

An informed source said the two markets were earlier scheduled to open at the end of this month, but had to be postponed because several problems are yet to be settled, including officials and the clearing of landmines which are still buried in the sites designated as markets.

Meanwhile, the Burapa Task Force yesterday issued an announcement advising all Thai blackmarketeers to stop their illegal activities at Ban Kok Sabang black market and settle accounts with their Cambodian counterparts before the opening of the two open markets in mid-March.

The source said that the measure was necessary to end the blackmarketeering and to force the illegal traders to switch to legal trading. Thai and Cambodian authorities would independently impose taxes on goods traded in the markets, the source said.

Government Pledges 'Extensive' Aid to Laos

BK1402023391 Bangkok THE NATION in English
14 Feb 91 p A5

[Text] Loei—Thailand will provide extensive assistance to Laos with 330 development projects in a wide range of fields, including medical services and education, a senior military officer said on Tuesday.

Maj Gen Wirot Wachirawat, chairman of the Thai-Lao Military Coordinating Committee, said the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation has received funds from international organizations and will use the funds to help Laos. Wirot said the 330 projects will cover medical services, education, social and cultural affairs, communications, transportation, agriculture and technical training. He said a Laotian delegation of the Thai-Lao Coordinating Committee arrived on Tuesday to talk with Thai authorities in Bangkok about the Thai assistance. The delegation is scheduled to return home today, he added.

In Bangkok, the Supreme Command's Joint Operations Directorate Deputy Director Maj Gen Phisan Buasuang said, following a meeting with the Lao officials yesterday, that they had discussed details of the Thai policy to assist Laos. Phisan said the meeting also discussed a plan to organize an assembly of the Thai-Lao Coordinating Committee this year. He said the date and place of the assembly have yet to be fixed.

Hopes of Salvaging Thai-U.S. Air Pact 'Brighter'

BK1402030591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
14 Feb 91 p 17

[Text] Hopes of salvaging the severed Thai and US air services agreement were brighter yesterday as both sides agreed to keep dialogue open.

The positive outlook was the result of a meeting between Transport and Communications Minister Samak SunthArawet and US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue, who agreed to extend the negotiation period by seven months as of April 1. It was understood there would be no reduction in the number of US or Thai flights between the two countries during that time, and both sides would continue operatIng under temporary traffic rights.

Last year a Thai negotiation team led by Transport and Communications Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Mahidon Chanthrangkun ordered the US to limit its operation here to about 23 flights a week.

Mr Samak said extending negotiations would also benefit the country's tourism industry, especially in view of the current situation. Minister Samak said by keeping dialogue open, the Thai and US aviation authorities would have time to work out a new air service agreement which was acceptable to both sides. Before meeting the US ambassador, Mr Samak had discussed the issue with Prime Minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and met with Thai's board of directors.

In other developments, Thai International Marketing Vice-President Naret Howatthanakun said if the Gulf war ended soon, Thai could operate up to 10 flights a week to the US. Currently, Thai operated daily flights to Seattle—four via Taipei and three via Tokyo. "Thai could operate three additional flights a week to Los Angeles via Seoul using the MD-11s," Mr Naret said, adding that this depended on the war ending soon. In regard to Thai performances in Toronto where the airline is operating its A310 between Seattle and Toronto, Mr Naret said the cabin factor on the route is about 60 percent.

Meanwhile, travel and tourism industrialist welcomed the ministry move to normalise air services relations between Thai and the US which were left in disarray during the previous government.

The government, he said, should pay more attention to air services agreement as it is closely related to the country's growing tourism industry which had been the number one foreign exchange earners in the past years. "Despite this fact the Thai aviation team had clearly demonstrated its lack of understanding of the travel and tourism industry nor had they ever consulted those concerned," he noted.

Ministers View U.S. Position on Medical Patents

BK1402091791 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
14 Feb 91 p 6

[Text] Speaking to newsmen at Government House on the U.S. desire for expanded Thai protection of medical patents, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said Thailand will have to study how serious the United States is about this matter. It would be unwise for Thailand to react prematurely, he said. He said that he will also have to consult other ministries about the seriousness of the U.S. position, because it is a legal issue that concerns arrests and patent protection.

Asked if the U.S. position will result in higher production costs of medicine, Amaret said there is no problem because most medicines currently in use are not covered by patents; only expensive medicines used largely by wealthy people are covered by patents.

Regarding the report that the Public Health Ministry disagrees with the U.S. position, Amaret said he will have to consult with the ministry to ascertain what its position is. He noted that the U.S. Article 301 will be applied from March.

Meanwhile, Public Health Ministry Piyanat Watcharaphon told newsmen that he opposes the U.S. wish for expanded Thai patent protection. He felt there are ways to avoid complying with what the United States wants, depending on timing and occasion.

Editorial on Expanding Influence of Chat Thai

BK1302130691 Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 28 Jan-3 Feb 91 p 56

[Editorial by Rattana Yawapraphat: "Reviving the Ghost of General Phao"]

[Text] The sudden removal of the police chief last week made observers see clearly how the Police Department has come completely under the political influence of the Chat Thai Party. The move was welcomed by a group of senior police officers. The person appointed as new police chief and his men are known for their readiness to serve the interests of political leaders dictating to them from above.

Since the change from absolute to constitutional monarchy in Thailand, there has never been a time when the Police Department experienced freedom from the grips of dictators in power. When the country was under full dictatorship, the director general of the Police Department was a slave most loyal to the great dictator. At times, the dictator himself became police chief just to take the massive power of arrest into his own hands.

The Chat Thai Party has thus waited for decades for what it has wanted ever since the fall of the old member of the Ratchakhru Clan, Police General Phao Siyanon, chief of police and right-hand man under the dictatorship of Prime Minister Field Marshal P. Phibunsongkhram. Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram was toppled by Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, and Gen. Phao was forced to leave the country, along with a huge bank account, to live in exile in Switzerland.

Of course, it has been no waste of time for the founders of the Soi Ratchakhru Group to have been waiting patiently this long because now they have what they want. While waiting, the old members of the Ratchakhru Group, such as Major General Siri Siriyothin and Major General Praman Adireksan, engaged in various businesses and industries, and have built up and expanded their wealth and influence. They have expanded their sphere of influence by drawing in Japanese businessmen to join them in investment ventures. This enabled them to achieve victory in the general elections held after the premature death of Gen. Sarit Thanarat.

In the beginning, the Chat Thai Party was an object of derision by veteran political parties and the press which labelled it a party of remnant dictators and corrupt politicians. In any case, the party has braved all obstacles, made its way into parliament, and formed a government. The true political heir emerged after his return from South America where he stayed during his political exile imposed by Dictator Sarit.

Thailand has an elected government now following the democracy struggle which led to the student uprising of 14 October 1973, followed by the 6 October 1976 massive repression which saw a large number of students become victims. Over the years, the Chat Thai Party kept a low profile leaving the condemnation to fall solely on the military.

A government by the military for the military comes and goes, from Admiral Sangat Chaloyu to General Kriangsak Chamanan and General Prem Tinsulanon. Thanks to Gen. Kriangsak Chamanan, Thailand had an elected government. Yet, the prime ministers always remained under the monopoly of the military. Although the core of the Chat Thai Party is composed of militarymen, the party leaders are smart enough to make themselves known as simply retired officers who are keen in trade and business.

When the political heir of the Ratchakhru Group stepped in following the resignation of Gen. Prem under pressure from the military, he therefore did not have to face discontent from academics, students, and the general public as a soldier should despite the fact that he is a true soldier hiding under the cloak of businessman, banker, oil trader, and president of the Sino-Thai Friendship Association.

In only two years as prime minister, he has managed to get rid of his political and military adversaries, including the military faction that helped install him in power. The political parties in his previous coalition met with their downfall following mud-slinging campaigns among themselves. Only the Chat Thai Party, and its satellites bound by common interests, emerged as a new coalition.

The lightening takeover of the Police Department last week has awakened the people's fear of a revival of the ghost of the old member of the Ratchakhru Clan, Gen. Phao Siyanon. The Chat Thai Party has already taken over the Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, Interior Ministry, and the Industry Ministry. Nothing, the military included, remains an obstacle to its ambition.

Vietnam

Border Trade With PRC in Mong Cai Resumed

BK1302153291 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 13—The Sino-Vietnamese trade relations, interrupted by the border war in 1979, have been resumed since recently in the form of increasingly active cross-border trade with the opening of more and more markets along the common border, one of them in Mong Cai township in Quang Ninh province of Vietnam.

Mong Cai, capital of Hai Ninh district, is situated on the bank of Bei Lun River, facing Tonghsiang Town of Feng Ching District, Guangxi province of China, across about 500 metres. The market, opened last December, covers 5 hectares including 3,600 square metres for salestalls.

Pham Van Hon, head of the market managerial board, said the market is busy everyday with tens of thousands of goers, both Vietnamese and Chinese, many coming from as far as Hanoi and Ha Nam Ninh in North Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh City in the South. Twenty-one Vietnamese companies (11 local companies and 10 companies from other cities), and 15 Chinese companies have been granted charters to operate at the market. In addition, some 500 private traders (half of them Chinese) came on the inaugural day.

The Vietnamese sell farm, forest and marine products such as dried cassava, maize, groundnuts, soybeans, timber, cinnamon, shrimps, crabs, fish, frogs and especially chickens (some 3000 chickens sold daily). Chinese goods include clothing, footwear, bicycle parts, electric fans, farm tools, confectionery, medicinal herbs and apples, sold by major companies such as the Bei Lun Huo company, the Tonkin Gulf company (a chapter of the Yu Ta company of Hong Kong), and private producers and merchants.

As most of the past retrictions on the crossborder trade have been lifted, similar markets have also been opened on the Chinese side, one of them in Tonghsinang town of China, a dozen kilometres away from Mong Cai. Private money changers do a brisk business at several places in both towns.

The director of the Quang Ninh Import-Export Company (QUINIMEX- Hongai), a major trade company in Mong Cai, said the market will bring Quang Ninh at least 2 billion dong yearly. He estimated that an equivalent revenue in Chinese yuan will be earned by Guangxi Province of China.

More Vietnamese Workers Repatriated From Iraq

BK1302154091 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 13—Thanks to the arrangement of the French Government and the International Migration Organization (IMO), 256 more Vietnamese labourers repatriated from Iraq arrived at the Hanoi International Airport on Feb. 12 and 13.

The repatriates, including 121 nurses, were welcomed at the airport by representatives of the French Embassy in Hanoi, the Vietnamese ministries of foreign affairs, of labour, war invalids and social affairs, public health, and others.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has sent a message to his French counterpart R. Dumas to thank the French Government for its assistance in repatriating Vietnamese workers from Iraq.

Japanese Economic Penetration Weakens Embargo

BK1402054191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Feb 91 p B3

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "In Vietnam, Japanese Are Now Taken in Openly"]

[Text] When the Mitsubishi Corporation opened its office in Hanoi on Jan 15, it was a clear indication that the decade-old US-led economic embargo of Vietnam had started to crumble.

Next few months, other Japanese trading giants follow suit. Sumitomo Corp and Kanematsu Corp have already received a green signal from the Vietnamese government to open new offices in Hanoi, while Marubeni Corp and Nichimen Corp are awaiting similar permission.

For years, Japan has kept a low trading profile in Vietnam because of the Western economic embargo established in 1979. Since then, Japanese trading companies wishing to open representative offices in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh have used fictitious names.

But from late 1990, Japan's relations with Vietnam made rapid strides. After the visit by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to Tokyo last September, Japanese officials and trading companies intensified their contacts with Vietnam.

Before Thach's visit, Vietnam maintained a hostile attitude toward Japan, especially towards its foreign policy, which was seen as toeing the Washington line. Prior to 1988, Japan had also unconditionally supported the policy of the United States and ASEAN on the Cambodian conflict.

However, after the Vietnamese troop pullout from Cambodia and Japan's subsequent involvement in the Cambodian peace process, Tokyo became more at ease with Hanoi and adjusted its relations with Vietnam.

At the same time, the dialogue between Hanoi and Washington, even though it has yet to bring about concrete proposal to normalizing relations, has encouraged Japan to be more lenient to Vietnam. The rapprochement between China and Vietnam also helped improving the position.

After Thach's visit, the government-controlled Vietnamese media regularly featured news about Japan, especially the Japanese investment and trade in the country. Some articles were focused on the historical ties between the two countries. One article said that Japan's Meiji Restoration had a direct impact on the late 19th century Vietnamese intelligentsia, even though they failed to carry out similar reforms.

According to statistics published in Nhan Dan early this month, foreign countries have signed 175 contracts worth about $700 million (Bt [baht] 17.9 billion) with Vietnam since 1988 and the Japanese investments amounted to about 10 percent of the total.

A diplomat based here has speculated that in the next three years, Japan will inevitably top the foreign investors list in Vietnam. At present, France comes first with $125.6 million investments, followed by Canada, Britain, and Belgium.

The diplomat said that given the on-going Gulf war, Japan is aggressively searching for new petroleum sources to reduce its dependence on the Middle East oil imports. The potential future in Vietnam for Japanese business is indicated in the following statistics: Japan imported about 80 percent of the total crude oil produced in Vietnam in 1990, and that level of its oil imports showed 90 percent increase over the 1989 figures.

Japan has already become Vietnam's biggest non-socialist trading partner. During the first nine months of 1990, its bilateral trade with Vietnam amounted to about 80 billion yen, double the trade figures during the the same period a year before, according to the Japan-Vietnam Trade Association.

With increased investment and trade from Japan as well as other countries, some Western diplomats said that the US-led Vietnamese trade embargo no longer posed barrier for future overseas investment. "It affects only the US companies and its affiliates," said one diplomat.

According to the Vietnamese statistics, US companies in joint ventures with third countries have invested about $2 million dollars in oil and gas-related industry in Vietnam.

Despite the embargo, other European countries have already got a strong foothold in Vietnam. Last week, Belgium signed an agreement on economic cooperation with Vietnam to protect its investments in the country. France and Italy are already giving aid to Vietnam.

While Japan and Europe have made a dent in the US-led embargo, the bottom line for Vietnam is to get much the needed credit and loans from international lending institutions. For that, Washington's full consent is required.

Obviously, Vietnam is increasingly frustrated by Washington's inertia over the lifting of the embargo, given the progress on the Cambodian peace settlement and the POW/MiAs issue.

Commenting on the impasse, a senior Vietnamese official felt that US-Vietnam normalization is no longer dependent on the settlement of the Cambodian problem, but the POWs and MiAs issue remains the real impediment. There are still several hundred unaccounted MiAs despite the efforts of 12 joint missions to locate their remains.

The official said that the least Washington can do is to initiate partial lifting of the embargo so that the much-needed foreign assistance flows in. Due to Washington's opposition, international financial lending institution are reluctant to give credit and loans to Vietnam.

Some analysts said that there is a possibility of Japanese aid to Vietnam to boost the economy and make its presence more firm. Japan will play a vital role in financing the economic reconstruction of Indochina in future.

After the end of the Vietnam War, Japan was among the first countries to help the war-torn nation. Tokyo allocated an annual grant in aid of 4 billion yen for four years between 1978 and 1981 and a 20 billion-yen loan for 1978 and 1979. But the entire package was suspended when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 end.

It's an open secret that Japan has a keen interest in Vietnam's rich oil and other natural resources as well as the low-paid, but highly skilled labour force.

Japanese scholars who have visited Vietnam have also urged the Japanese government to give aid to Vietnam since its financial assistance from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has been reduced.

Anniversary of Relations With USSR Marked

BK1402040891 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 11—A cordial meeting between the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association and the Soviet-Vietnam [words indistinct] was held recently to mark the 41st anniversary of the Vietnam-USSR diplomatic relations and the traditional Lunar New Year festival of Vietnam.

Speaking at the function, Dang Huu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, thanked the party, the government and the people of the Soviet Union for their valuable and allround assistance to the Vietnamese people in the past 41 years and stressed that the Vietnamese side will do its utmost to implement the economic and trade agreements signed in Hanoi last month between the two countries.

Soviet Ambassador R.L. Khamidulin, for his part, affirmed that the Soviet people are always consistent in promoting the friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the spirit of renovation and for mutual benefits, and wished the Vietnamese people many new successes in national construction and defence.

NHAN DAN Airs Workers' Views on Platform

BK1302155191 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Jan 91 pp 1, 4

[Article by Xuang Cang and Nguyen Thanh Van: "The Position and Role of the Working Class Should Be Manifested More Clearly in the Platform"]

[Text] For the past one month or more, workers' unions at all levels countrywide have organized many debates among workers and intellectuals to contribute their views to the draft documents of the party's seventh congress. The Secretariat of the Confederation of Vietnam Workers recently held a conference to hear views directly from some high-ranking workers of various trades and occupations in enterprises and factories of the central sector and in Hanoi.

What issues concerning the party's two importants documents are workers interested in? In one full day of animated debate, more than 20 views were presented covering those policy issues which reflect the vivid realities of life in which workers are very much interested, namely livelihood, job, democracy, and social justice. When analyzing each chapter of the platform, however, all participants in the debate mentioned an issue related to the historic mission of the working class which is: How must the position and role of the working class be manifested in the platform?

Speaking of the party, nearly all participants asserted: The party must, first, be the party of the working class. It represents the interests of the working class as well as the entire nation. The history of the Vietnamese revolution has asserted that the working class' interests are basically unified with national interests. This point is also very relevant to Marxist-Leninist viewpoint on the relations between the working class and the nation. So, why do we not assert in the platform that the Communist Party of Vietnam is the party of the Vietnamese working class?

Many views hold that the position and historic role of the working class in the platform should be asserted according to its stature in the socialist revolution. Debating those issues involving the benefits and duties of workers, some of the participants said that our workers' aspirations are: Jobs and enough income to live and gradually improve their living conditions; good workers being compensated more than poor ones; the ability to send their children to schools, to receive medical treatment when sick, and houses to live in.

We would like to call your attention to the fact that workers under all regimes including ours are those who suffer the most losses. Theoretically, everything seems to be adequate but the problems lie in the practical field. We have the labor force. We want it to be considered as a type of commodity and we have the right to demand its right price. We hope that the current surplus labor is only a temporary problem in our society.

Comrade Dang Tran Nguyen, a 4/7 grade mechanic of the electric measuring equipment factory, sincerely said: "We began to have citizen and human rights with the August Revolution. Through magazines and films, I have found out that although capitalist countries are rich, workers there remain poor and are treated badly and contemptuously. What I treasure the most in our society though still poor is that it has brought about human rights to us, workers. Our party must be consolidated at the grassroots level and through each of its members. I think that the party's prestige has declined not because of mistakes in policy and line matters at the central level but because of unqualified, unethical and incompetent party members at the grassroots level who have been assigned important responsibilities. All evils such as corruption, oppression of the people, disunity, and other unhealthy matters have originated from there. As a result, the present criteria and qualifications for a party member must be the ability to assume their assigned tasks. The higher the responsibility, the more ability and revolutionary ethics a party member must have."

Comrade Nguyen Ba Hoc of the 3d Truck Transportation Company said: I totally agree with the assessment of our people's achievements. Such an assessment gives us confidence in our future path. In our country's present situation, it is correct to chose the path to socialism because it conforms to the developmental trend of the era and meets the people's aspirations. However, the party must continue to renovate its leadership and surge forward to the par of its historic mission. I agree with the platform requiring real renovation in accordance with the five socialist viewpoints.

When dealing with the issue of whether or not workers are a type of commodity, Comrade Phung Huu Nhan, an electric operator of Hanoi electric power plant, stressed: The path to socialism must start with people but they must be those who can master their own labor force. As a result, I agree with the view considering the labor force a commodity. This issue was not emphasized before because workers did not get their due pay and had to have second jobs in order to have enough to live. Unable to master themselves, how can workers control society? Yet, since the Sixth Party Congress, the renovation of economic management and the implementation of autonomous rights in business and production have made workers realize that they are beginning to be able to master themselves.

This has shown that only when the labor force is considered a type of commodity, can it be truly liberated. In this connection, Comrade Pham Van Minh, a 6/7 grade turner holds a somewhat different view. According to him, past labor can be considered a type of commodity. Live labor should not be so considered because part of workers' labor is a contribution. If socialism considers all labor a type of commodity, it denies the workers' contribution.

Sister Bui Thi Ha, a 4/6 grade textile worker, sincerely said: We, all female workers, think despite our utmost effort to work, we still cannot earn enough to live with one child. It is too boring to hear the two words "transition period" because a few decades ago, we were already talking about a "transition period" and now again. Who would know when the too beautiful socialism could be achieved? Should we divide the period into short terms and name them after the most specific socioeconomic objectives? For example, India with its "Green Revolution" objective has completely changed the face of its agriculture.

Dang Duc Sy, chairman of the workers' union of the Z-133 machineworks, said: I concur with the anticorruption issue in the "strategy" but the issue must be more specific. I suggest that fighting corruption must start with each cadre and each party member. This, I think, is the best and the most effective solution. Speaking of workers' unions, Sy said: The position and role of workers' unions are clearly manifested by the political network mentioned in the platform. The workers' unions should review its work since the sixth congress of trade unions to see what they have achieved, particularly in arranging jobs for workers. Workers' unions should have clear-cut political viewpoints and publicly announce them for workers to believe in and adopt as a they discover that unions belong to them.

Workers are also interested in the issues of discipline and law. Tran Tien Minh, a ⅔ grade train conductor, said: "Who would believe that hoodlums could jump aboard running trains and point a dagger at the conductor forcing him to stop the train so that they could load copper onto it. Streets now become shops, pedestrians now use the entire road bed with policemen turning a blind eye. We suggest that law enforcement tasks be assigned to a sector vertically responsible to the National Assembly and not to local authorities. If the law enforcement task is assigned to too many echelons, it is tantamount to giving the right not to enforce law and so it is just like having no law."

Vo Chi Cong Extends Tet Greetings to Lang Son

BK1402061391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Text] In anticipation of the lunar new year of the goat, on behalf of the party and state, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State, recently visited and extended Tet greetings to the party organization and people of all nationalities in Lang Son Province. Accompanying the chairman on the visit was Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, general secretary of the Council of State.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong was warmly welcomed by Comrade La Thang, secretary of the provincial party committee; Comrade Nguyen Minh Quai, chairman of the provincial people's committee; Comrade Duong Cong Da, chairman of the provincial people's council; and many leaders or representatives of various organs and sectors in the province.

In an atmosphere of cordiality before the arrival of the new spring, Chairman Vo Chi Cong—a business-conscious person with many new viewpoints concerning the management mechanism—exchanged views with the comrade leaders of the province and analyzed the experiences accumulated by the provincial party organization in the 4-year implementation of the Sixth Party Congress's resolution.

The chairman contributed interesting views on the renovation of the mechanism of management among non-state economic components, on the importance of the Political Bureau's Resolution No. 10 to agricultural production, and on the entanglement and impasse facing various state-operated economic components. He also contributed many interesting views to, and introduced a number of, specific methods for organizing and managing various agricultural sectors in a way that meets market demands, improving work related to joint ventures with foreign countries in various investment projects, or in the development of local potential for the production of export goods.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong attentively and sympathetically exchanged views with the local leaders on how to profit by investment to enrich the province and improve the livelihood of its people of various nationalities.

The year of the horse will pass by soon while the year of the goat is approaching. No matter where they are at this time of year, people tend to look to their native villages for a reunion with their families. But here, in this border area, soldiers will welcome the new spring with elation and peace of mind right in their units.

The joy of the combatants at the Huu Nghi (Friendship) border post rose when Chairman of the Council of State Vo Chi Cong visited them and extended Tet greetings and presented gifts to them. This manifested the warm feeling and concern of the party and the state toward soldiers in all parts of the country.

With the feeling of a former soldier—a policial commissar attached to the 5th military region during the anti-U.S. resistance—Chairman Vo Chi Cong exchanged experiences with and solicitously inquired about the living conditions and tasks of cadres and combatants at the Huu Nghi border post.

As members of the unit that has twice earned the heroic title, cadres and members of the Huu Nghi border post always uphold the fine nature of Uncle Ho's soldiers. Last year, the border post arranged for the people to travel back and forth safely across the border between Vietnam and China and satisfactorily controlled cross-border smuggling activities, while ensuring its members' livelihood.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong warmly commended the border post for fulfilling all of its tasks. He expressed the hope that cadres and combatants of the Huu Nghi border post, as well as of other units, will develop the tradition of solidarity and friendship between the two countries, striving to make the Sino-Vietnamese border always a border of peace and friendship.

While visiting and extending Tet greetings and delivering gifts to the people of various nationalities in Dong Dang township and Cao Loc district, the chairman expressed his joy at the fact that their livelihood has rapidly been stabilized and that many economic and cultural projects have been built. In only two years, the pace of housing construction has increased by three times. Meanwhile, thanks to their proficiency in terms production and business, many families have been able to expand their incomes.

In Dong Dang Township, Chairman Vo Chi Cong observed activities at a fresh market on a pre-Tet day, cordially exchanged views with the local people on their living conditions, and learned that many families have now been able to raise dozens of buffaloes and cattle and hundreds of chickens, produce enough paddy for consumption and reserve, and buy modern radio and cassette players and recorders and motorcycles.

The chairman expressed the hope that with a determination to follow the path of renovation chosen by the party and Uncle Ho, the people of various nationalities in Lang Son as well as their compatriots in all parts of the country, will certainly be able to enjoy an abundant and happy life.

While in Lang Son, Chairman Vo Chi Cong and the comrade leaders of the province also visited an enterprise producing bamboo chopsticks for export, which began operation less than a month ago under a joint venture, in terms of capital and technical equipment, with the Hai Au (Sea-Gull) enterprise in Hong Kong. From an establishment doing business with losses and facing the threat of dissolution, the enterprise has now been able to provide employment for more than 200 workers, make the fullest use of raw materials in the province such as bamboo, and collect a relatively large amount of foreign currency.

The chairman commended the province for its dynamic spirit and boldness in developing its advantages and potentials to increase the sources of forest products for export and the processing industry, thus solving the problem of employment and improving the living conditions of workers.

In his meetings with key and leading cadres of various organs in the province and some districts, Chairman Vo Chi Cong spent time informing them of some major issues concerning the world situation and of the initial results in the process of renovation of our party and state in accordance with the spirit of the Sixth Party Congress' resolution. The chairman also explained and exchanged views on many issues related to the process of implementing various resolutions of the party Central Committee, the Political Bureau, and the party organization and people of various nationalities of Lang Son Province. The include existing obstacles and weaknesses that must be overcome and questions concerning party building and relations between the party and people and between the party and various sectors and mass organizations.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong also urged the party organization, people, and armed forces of Lang Son Province to preserve and strengthen relations with the people along the Sino-Vietnamese border, striving to make it truly a border of friendship and peace.

Regarding the tasks of the Lang Son Province party organization, Chairman Vo Chi Cong said:

As a mountainous province, Lang Son must continue carrying out the three major economic programs; firmly solve the grain problem, and step up the development of industrial crops and traditional special products such as soybeans, tobacco, walnuts, and fruit trees. The province must pay attention to carrying out economic development evenly in both the highland and lowland regions. The province must also attach great importance to all aspects of the livelihood of the people of various nationalities, especially in the highland or remote areas, while ensuring equality among all nationalities.

Comrade La Thang, on behalf of the party organization, armed forces, and people of Lang Son, voiced determination to carry out the comrade chairman's instructions by accelerating the process of renovation in all aspects in preparation for the Seventh Party Congress.

Vo Chi Cong Pays Tet Visit to Hanoi People

BK1402110991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Amid a warm atmosphere as we are jubilantly celebrating the new spring season, on the morning of 13 February 1991 or two days before 'the Year of the Goat' Tet, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, paid a Tet greeting visit to the party organization and people of the capital.

He was accompanied by Comrade Vu Mao, member of the Council of State, head of the office of the National Assembly and the Council of State.

The comrade chairman was given a warm welcome by Comrade Pham The Duyet, secretary of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; by a large number of leading comrades of the municipality and of various precincts, districts, and towns; and by representatives of Hoan Kiem precinct.

Amid an atmosphere filled with party-people love, Chairman Vo Chi Cong cordially chatted with the representatives of the Hanoi municipal people. The comrade hailed the many encouraging and praiseworthy achievements and successes scored by the party organization and people of the capital as the capital is experiencing changes under the renovation and is capable of maintaining its political stability and effecting very important initial changes economically and socially.

Touching on the 1991 tasks, Chairman Vo Chi Cong said: As 1991 is the first year for our country to implement its new platform and strategy for socioeconomic construction up to the year 2000—a year full of great difficulties and ordeals—the party organization and people of the capital should strive to satisfactorily carry out various major tasks which consist of stepping up industrial and agricultural production, overcoming difficulties, paying attention to rationally rearranging industrial and handicraft production, developing the traditional sources of labor and technological assets of various economic components in order to promote increased production, capitalizing on international cooperation to renovate technical equipment and programs, broadening the market, gradually stabilizing production, especially state-run production; actively creating employment for the laboring people, providing economic management and guidance for private entrepreneurs to work in the right direction and in accordance with the law, consolidating and strengthening the administration at various levels, improving their leadership and management skills in conjunction with efforts to reestablish public order and discipline in urban management and to put the capital's mutifaceted management on the right tract, praticising thrift while fighting corruption and smuggling, and the production of counterfeit goods, ameliorating all social relations in the capital, gradually enforcing those correct policies on regulating supplies and other social welfare policies, achieving social justice, and constantly launching a mass movement to voluntarily participate in the maintenance of social safety and to build a civilized and modern way of life for the Hanoi capital.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong believed that the party organization and people of the capital would be able to surge forward to meet the aspirations of the entire country and to deserve being the capital of Vietnam.

Also on the same morning, Chairman Vo Chi Cong paid a Tet greeting visit to the family of Professor Vu Van Chuyen, a prestigious biologist. While informally chatting with this professor who has a career dating back 45 years ago, Chairman Vo Chi Cong solicitously inquired about the life and work of the professor and his family. Chairman Vo Chi Cong urged the professor to continue to conduct research on those medicinal herbs available in the country if we are to put them in mass production in order to serve the people's prophylactic and therapeutic requirements.

The family of Mr. Ha Duy Trung, engineer of the Electric Gauge Factory, was very moved at being given a Tet-greeting visit by Chairman Vo Chi Cong. The chairman was very happy to learn that Mr. Trung is a talented engineer known for his creativity in productive labor and for his working as the leader of an electric gauge team whose products had been recognized as attaining export standards. Like Uncle [Vo Chi Cong] and his nephew, the chairman presented a gift to Mr. Trung's family and wished the young couple happiness and satisfactory accomplishment of their assigned duties.

Visiting the family of an old man named Le Vinh Tuy—a family formerly serving as a revolutionary agent—the chairman brought elder comrade Tuy, who is a retired, aging, and ailing cadre, a new source of joy. The old Mr. Tuy emotionally told Chairman Vo Chi Cong about his situation and how his family has striven to live up to the tradition of a revolutionary agent. Despite difficulties, he has always strived to develop the revolutionary tradition of his family by making satisfactory contributions to the cause of the nation and the people.

Vo Nguyen Giap Meets Intellectuals on New Year

BK1302132491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Text] On the morning of 7 February [as heard], General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, met and offered his Tet greetings to those intellectuals now engaged in scientific and technological work in Ho Chi Minh city.

General Vo Nguyen Giap also congratulated the new executive committee of the city's Union of Scientific and Technological Societies and conveyed his Tet greetings to all the intellectuals of the city.

Comrade Mai Chi Tho, minister of interior, met and offered his New Year greetings to the intermediate- and high-ranking cadres of the Ho Chi Minh City's public security service.

Le Duc Anh Pays Visit to Military Machineworks

BK1302140891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Text] On 11 and 12 February, General Le Duc Anh, minister of national defense, visited and offered his Tet greetings to the Z-151 and Z-155 machineworks, the Auto and Tractor Department, and the B- 12 Group of the Quyet Thang Corps.

At the Z-151 machineworks, the general spent a great deal of time visiting its repair shop, production area, day-care center, dispensary, and the like.

Cordially addressing the cadres and state employees of the machineworks, the general hailed the many great contributions made by the auto and tractor sector in general and the Z-151 machineworks in particular in the process of unit buiding, combat, and growth of our armed forces.

Chairman Le Quang Dao Visits Ha Bac Province

BK1402073991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Text] On the occasion of the Lunar New Year of the Goat, Comrade Le Quang Dao, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly, on 11 February visited cadres and people in Ha Bac Province.

During his stay in Ha Bac, Comrade Le Quang Dao visited Bac Giang and Bac Ninh cities and Hiep Hoa, Viet Yen, and Tien Son Districts. At these localities he met with cadres of various sectors and many revolutionary veterans. He cordially inquired about life and production situations in the areas, answered questions asked by the local people, and briefed them on the potential and difficulties of the nation in 1991.

Speaking to a group of key cadres in the province he stressed that the party has led the masses in various stages of the revolution and that the revolutionary cause belongs to the people. He also gave some advice on the new workstyle in the current situation and urged economic establishments to work actively applying the new management mechanism.

Comrade Le Quang Dao also visited the Quan Ho folk song troop and the Quyet Tien limestone enterprise of Bac Ninh city. Afterward, he visited families who have performed meritorious services to the revolution and veteran party members. He also presented New Year gifts to localities and families on behalf of the National Assembly.

Comrade Le Quang Dao extended best wishes for the New Year to cadres and people in localities and urged them to strive to uphold the spirit of self-reliance, overcome difficulties, and achieve many new things in the New Year.

Leaders Pay Tribute at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum

BK1302155491 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 13—A delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the National Assembly and the State Council, the Council of Ministers, and the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front led by Vo Chi Cong, Pham Van Dong and Hoang Quoc Viet today paid a tribute at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum here on the occasion of the traditional Lunar New Year Festival.

The same day, other delegations representing the Hanoi party committee and people's committee, Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, and other central public offices also paid tributes to the late Vietnamese president at his mausoleum.

Australia

Minister: Bombing of Iraqi Civilians 'Tragedy'

BK1402074691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] The federal trade and overseas development minister, Dr. Neal Blewett, has described the bombing of civilians in Iraq as a tragedy. Speaking to reporters in Canberra, Dr. Blewett says it in no way diminishes Australia's commitment. The minister said he expects to get more details of the attack today.

[Begin Blewett recording] Well, as I said, we regard it as a tragedy that it has occurred. The evidence has been that large casualties, civilian casualties, have been avoided in this war, but we have recognized all along that there were likely to be some civilian casualties, and as I have said, the way that can be brought to an end is by the withdrawal of the aggressors from Kuwait. [end recording]

New Zealand

Ministry Says Taiwan Driftnet Fleet Stays Away

BK1402092291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 14 Feb 91

[Text] Wellington, Feb 14 (AFP)—Taiwan's controversial driftnet fishing fleet appears to have stayed out of the South Pacific during the current Tuna season, New Zealand's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) said Thursday.

Driftnetting, which uses very long and fine nylon nets, is regarded as extremely detrimental to the environment and is outlawed inside the exclusive economic zones of South Pacific nations.

Only Taiwan continues to practise it after South Korea and Japan agreed, in the face of strong diplomatic pressure, to give it up.

MAF senior scientist Talbot Murray said MAF observers on New Zealand tuna boats had so far sighted only five driftnet vessels in fishing grounds east of New Zealand.

United States fishing boat owners had been told there were only seven Taiwan driftnetters in the South Pacific this season and only 11 licences had been issued by Taiwanese authorities.

This compares with confirmed sightings of 11 Taiwanese driftnetters in the region last summer and more than 100 the year before.

The Albacore Tuna season in the Tasman Sea and the South Pacific runs from December to about April.

Mr. Murray said it appeared most of the Taiwan fleet had again gone to the Indian Ocean.

The apparent move from South Pacific by the vessels was "absolutely fantastic" he said.

New Zealand vessels have so far reported a slow Albacore season this year.

Mr. Murray said boats were only now starting to get good catches as the migrant tuna appeared to be reaching the waters east of New Zealand late, possibly because of climatic and weather conditions rather than depletion of tuna stock.

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Defense Members Doubt ASDF Dispatch To Occur

OW0902040391 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 8 Feb 91 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Anlaysis" column by Akiko Kusaoi, staff writer: "Defense Ranks Doubt Dispatch Will Occur"]

[Text] As members of the Air Self-Defense Force [ASDF] work round the clock to prepare for their first mission to the Middle East, some in the Defnese Agency and the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] doubt the aircraft will ever be dispatched.

Officials insist the aircraft must fly to the region and therefore will.

Others, however, say the C-130H transports may never leave for the Middle East. They cite the reluctance of Jordan to grant landing privileges, the presence of a smaller number of evacuees than predicted in the kingdom and Tokyo's indecisiveness.

Many SDF members also fear the Liberal-Democratic Party-run government may scrub the planned aircraft dispatch to gain opposition support for Diet passage of Japan's $9 billion Gulf aid commitment.

Akio Suzuki, ASDF chief of staff, officially ordered his subordinates Jan. 24 to start preparing for C-130H transport aircraft to fly to the Middle East to airlift evacuees who had fled from Iraq and kuwait. It would be the force's first nondrill mission abroad in its 37-year existence.

The dispatch team would consist of some 200 SDF members, including pilots, engineers and other personnel for logistical support, the ASDF said. Of the force's 15 C-130H aircraft, five were earmarked for the mission.

The necessaary inspections and repairs have been performed on the planes, and the crews have undergone training at the ASDF'S Komaki Airbase in Aichi Prefecture.

Defense Agency officials say the force will complete preparations by the end of this week at the latest. The final touches will be added with the report from a team that returned Tuesday from making feasibility studies in Egypt and Jordan.

But as the preparations continue, some agency officials and SDF officers doubt the mission will come off.

Even though the government has ordered the ASDF to get ready, the final decision on the dispatch will follow a meeting of either the Security Council of Japan or a governmental task force on the Gulf crisis set up inside the Prime Minister's Official Residence.

"I don't think we have any role to play," one ranking agency official said. "There won't be so many evacuees to transfer after all, even after ground combat begins, because the combat will take place in southern Kuwait, where already there are few civilians."

"Foreign workers in other areas of Iraq and Kuwait have lived there a long time. They won't leave so easily," he said.

There is no need for the ASDF to fly all the way to Cairo on a trip lasting four days if airlines in the region such as Royal Jordanian and Egyptair are willing to and can provide chartered flights between Amman and Cairo to carry evacuees, others point out.

The Jordanian Government is also reportedly reluctant to allow entry to an allied nation's military aircraft because of domestic sentiment that favors Iraq and stands against the coalition force.

The Jordanian public sees Japan as one of the biggest sponsors of the allied force, according to some agency officials.

Despite these obstacles, some officials maintain it is important to send Japanese aircraft with the nation's flag clearly visible to demonstrate Tokyo's resolve to commit itself to peace efforts in the region, regardless of whether an evacuee airlift from Jordan comes about.

But some say that if the chances of actually performing the mission are nil, it's best to leave the planes at home.

"What I fear most is that the government may drop its proposal to dispatch the SDF in exchange for support from the opposition parties for the large financial contribution and the planned tax increase to finance the aid," a high-ranking SDF officer said on condition of anonymity.

"It will do severe psychological damage to the forces if the plan is dropped after all these preparations, because we have long been tired of being a political toy," he said.

Official: SDF Aircraft 'Can Be Sent' Overseas

OW0402191891 Tokyo JIJI in English 1324 GMT 4 Feb 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (JIJI PRESS)—Self-Defense Forces (SDF) aircraft can be sent abroad temporarily under a special ordinance, Cabinet Legislation Bureau Director-General Atsuo Kudo said Monday.

Kudo's remarks were an apparent departure from the government's previous stance that dispatches of SDF aircraft overseas for missions not specified in the SDF Law would require a change in the law.

Kudo, speaking at a House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting, was referring to Section 5.1, Article 100 of the SDF Law, which stipulates that SDF aircraft can be used to carry national guests, the prime minister and other persons specified in cabinet ordinances.

The lower house Budget Committee Monday kicked off debate focusing on the government's planned additional contributions to help restore peace in the Persian Gulf region.

Answering a question by Takatoshi Fujita, a member of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ), Kudo justified the government's proclamation of a special ordinance last Tuesday to dispatch SDF aircraft to the Middle East for airlifting war evacuees.

The government has so far said that dispatches of SDF aircraft would require a revision of the SDF Law, but that stance was based on an assumption that the dispatches would be regarded as ordinary SDF missions, Kudo said.

Temporary missions as currently planned will not need a change in the SDF Law, he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in response to another question by Fujita, indicated that Japan's additional aid to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf will not be spent on military activities.

The government plans to ensure that the 9-billion-dollar assistance will be used for such activities as the provision of foods, transportation and medical services, Kaifu said.

The 9 billion dollars will be disbursed to the Gulf peace fund at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in full consideration of Japanese public sentiment on the use of the money, Kaifu said.

But Kaifu said he is not in a position to deny remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the use of the funds. Baker said late last month that the fresh aid from Japan would all be used to cover U.S. military costs for the Gulf war.

Also responding to Fujita's questions, Minoru Tambgn, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's U.N. Bureau, said the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has yet to ask Japan to send SDF aircraft for airlifting war evacuees from the Gulf region.

The IOM, in a Jan. 17 letter from Director-General James N. Purcell, merely called on Japan and 32 other countries to check the number of civilian and military aircraft available to transport evacuees from the Gulf region if necessary, Tambga said.

Kaifu previously said that Tokyo, in preparing to send SDF aircraft to the Middle East, was just responding to an IOM request.

Rally Protests Dispatch of SDF Planes to Mideast

OW1202100791 Tokyo JPS in English 0856 GMT 12 Feb 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo Feb 12 JPS—On February 11, over 10,000 people gathered at park near Komaki Air Self-Defense Force [SDF] base, held a meeting and demonstrated outside the base, opposing the government plan to send SDF's aircraft to the Middle East. The five C-130h transport planes which are assigned to the task are stationed at Komaki Base with their crews and other military personnel for the mission. The demonstration lasted two and a half hours. In front of the main gate of the military airfield, the people taking part repeatedly shouted slogans in unison, "Never Allow Sending of C-130h's" and "Never Allow Overseas Dispatch of the SDF".

Under a blue sky, in a warm temperature, the demonstrators including many women and teachers, started from the meeting place, Minomachi Park, Kasugai City, Aichi Prefecture. They marched outside the base. Near the ending point of the demonstration, they passed the main gate of the aircraft works of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries where missiles and military planes are manufactured. The people came mostly from Aichi Prefecture, but some from neighboring prefectures and from more remote places, as it was an important meeting of national importance.

The action, named "February 11 Big Action Against the Gulf War, Never Allow Unconstitutional Overseas Dispatch of the SDF and Burdening of War Costs", was jointly organized by the central and Aichi prefectural chapters of the liaison conference to prevent overseas dispatch of the SDF and the National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren).

They gathered in Minomachi Park for the meeting to commence at 1:00 P.M. A speech was made by Toshio Inoue, chairman of Aichi Zenroren. Representatives of various sections and organizations, including Mitsuhiro Kaneko, presidium vice-chairman of the Japanese Communist Party, expressed their determination to continue the strength. [as received] The meeting adopted a resolution which says (in gist):

"Challenging the voice of the people which says 'no to the Gulf war, the government must stop war cooperation', at Komaki Base, intense exercises with the SDF's C-130h transport planes are being conducted every day, for their assignment in the Middle East. The government alleges that the dispatch of C-130h's to the Mideast is a 'non-military operation.' But this tramples on the peace principles of the Constitution. It is obvious that it will be internationally regarded as a military operation.

"Touching voices from families of SDF members at the Komaki Base are being heard—don't let my husband, father of our family, go to the battle field. We indignantly denounce the Liberal-Democratic Party [LDP] government of Toshiki Kaifu, which is promoting their plot for the unconstitutional overseas dispatch of the SDF by a government on a sheet of decree, without consulting the Diet.

"The root cause of the Gulf war is the Iraqi aggression against and annexation of Kuwait...The Iraqi forces must immediately withdraw from Kuwait. The U.S. has a serious responsibility, the U.S. is serious in that it rejected the French proposal in the U.N. Security Council, blocked the path to a peaceful settlement, and dashed to use force. [as received]

"Today, it is urgently necessary to bind the hands of those who want to use nuclear weapons and chemical weapons, and end the war as soon as possible. "Now we call for the heightening of international public opinion, 'no to the Gulf war, for Just Peace in the Middle East.'

"What is serious for the Japanese people is that the Kaifu LDP government has abandoned all efforts for a peaceful settlement, and is involved in war cooperation with the U.S., doing whatever the U.S. wants. The promise of war cooperation before the war started, and the burden of 9 billion dollars war costs when the war broke out, is nothing but participation in war from a financial angle.

"With this great action of encircling the Komaki Base as a spring board, let us heighten and develop public opinion from the grass-roots in work-places, local areas and campuses, and make a very big effort to encircle this war-cooperation government. We will make every effort to this end".

Kaifu Criticized for 'Evasive' Answers in Diet

OW0202085791 Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 1 Feb 91 p 2—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Editorial: "An Evasive Prime Minister"]

[Text] Interpellation in the Diet amidst the expanding war has revealed a large gap between the government and opposition parties over Japan's support for Gulf efforts as Socialist Party Chairperson Takako Doi and other opposition leaders questioned the Cabinet stance.

Most disappointing was the manner of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who, by giving only vague and abstract replies, failed to answer squarely the questions the people have about the issue. This frustrated the search for a consensus in the Diet, went against parliamentary democracy, and brought doubt about his qualification as the nation's leader.

A consensus among the people and their support are essential for Japan to cooperate, as it should, in the international action to repel the Iraqi aggression of Kuwait on the basis of the United Nations resolutions. The current Diet session is supposed to discuss this matter exhaustively.

In particular, the additional cash contribution of 9 billion dollars to the allied forces and the dispatch of Self-Defense Force transport planes to carry refugees are important questions that can signify a change in Japan's fundamental policy of peace. Of these Kaifu's only explanation, in effect, was, "We should do what we can, please understand." Regrettably he seems to be less than sincere as a leader, and less than serious about the Diet.

The new cash contribution is being made at the strong request of Washington, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker indicated that the whole sum would be allotted to the U.S. war chest. Kaifu, however, merely commented that the government is paying the money, on its own initiative, to the Gulf Cooperation Council, without revealing how the sum had been arrived at and how it will be spent. Without such an explanation the prime minister cannot hope to gain the taxpayers' understanding.

We are not opposed to Japan, as a member of the international community, paying its fair share, in non-military areas. We want these expenditures, however, to be used for bringing peace to the Gulf, even though we cannot deny the fact that the new cash aid will be spent to assist the war efforts.

We believe, as Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida proposed, that the contribution should not be spent to purchase arms or munitions, and that the necessary funds should be sought by first cutting expenditures such as defense spending, before increasing taxes. While the government is planning ultimately a tax increase, Kaifu's attitude is neither responsible nor sincere enough to require that every citizen carry a share of the burden.

On the proposed dispatch of SDF planes, the prime minister did not go beyond his cursory statement that the operation is at the request of an international organization, is being done on humanitarian grounds and will not open the way for a future sending of SDF troops abroad. The Diet cannot engage in debate without a detailed explanation of why SDF planes are needed and how they will be managed and operated.

Civilian airliners should well serve the purpose. Noteworthy is the fact that even though the Japanese Government is enthusiastic about sending SDF planes, the Jordanian Government is reluctant to receive them.

More fundamentally, although the government is emphasizing the humanitarian aspect of refugee transport, the dispatch of SDF planes abroad will lead to a change in a basic principle of this country. The government's approach of railroading this by a simple revision of an ordinance without squarely proposing an amendment to the SDF Law betrays its disregard of the Diet.

The opposition parties should also be criticized for the insubstantial Diet debate at a time when Japan is called upon to render wide-ranging assistance. Although Doi expressed objection to the cash contribution and to the dispatch of SDF planes from a constitutional viewpoint, she should have presented alternatives in an effort to create a national consensus.

Such an effort can still be made in the forthcoming Budget Committee sessions by the government, the Liberal-Democratic Party and the opposition parties so that the nation may agree on meaningful international cooperation in compliance with the Constitution.

Former Envoy on Preparing for Postwar Role

OW0602201491 Tokyo JIJI in English 1313 GMT 6 Feb 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 6 (JIJI PRESS)—Japan, as a major economic power, should prepare for the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, former Ambassador to the United States Nobuo Matsunaga said Wednesday.

Matsunaga said he is not optimistic about reestablishing or creating a framework to maintain stabilty in the Middle East.

Nonetheless, Japan has to decide how it will contribute to introducing stability in the Middle East, Matsunaga told a luncheon meeting at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. He did not elaborate, however.

He also said he fully supports the U.S.-led military action against Iraq, saying, "The U.S. Government, under the leadership of President (George) Bush, has taken a courageous decision to deploy military forces in the Middle East."

"We have to understand, appreciate and support to a full extent the decision taken by Bush."

"Otherwise it is very clear Iraqi ambition would create an extremely destructive, dangerous situation in that region," said Matsunaga who was replaced by Ryohei Murata as ambassador in Washington last year.

Not only Japan but also many other members of the international community are heavily dependent on oil from the Middle East, he said.

Matsunaga, now an adviser to the Foreign Ministry, also supported the recent Japanese Government decision to supply the Allied forces fighting Iraq with additional aid of 9 billion dollars, a controversial proposal now under debate at the Diet (parliament).

"The United States is the only ally of Japan," he said, noting it is natural for Japan to back up and give full support to the United States.

Japan has established the current stability and prosperity thanks to cooperative relations with and support from the United States since the end of World War II, Matsunaga said.

He also warned that if the Diet fails to approve the fresh Gulf aid package, Japan would lose international credibility.

Socialist Party Ends 'Antiwar' Convention

OW0402131491 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 3 Feb 91 p 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN 2 February editorial: "JSP Must Rethink Policy"]

[Text] The annual national convention of the Social Democratic Party of Japan, formerly the Japan Socialist Party [JSP], ended Friday and a JSP official at the convention dubbed it an "antiwar meeting." Arguments during the three-day convention centered around how to insist on an immediate termination of the Gulf war.

The JSP does not realize that calling for an end to the U.S.-led multinational forces' battle against Iraq consequently means the JSP tacitly accepts the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its destruction of international order.

JSP members do not recognize the fact that Kuwaiti nationals have been struggling with the Iraqi force's plunder and atrocities since last August. If it is an "antiwar" and "peace" party, we cannot help but wonder why the JSP did not protest six months ago when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Forces In Line With U.N.

Not only that, the JSP has been ignoring the fact that the U.S.- led allied forces now deployed in the Gulf are in line with the U.N. resolutions.

Most JSP conventioneers felt the government's contribution to the allied forces in the Gulf was just Japan following in the footsteps of the United States.

It is indeed an option for the nation to stick to a pacifist only policy if Japan is ready to be isolated by the international community and face soured relations with the United States.

During a recent Diet session JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi said, "It is fit for Japan to accept such souring relations as a crucial test for the nation to remain a pacifist country." However, she neglected to give in any detail what that "test" would entail.

Doi Not Clear On Facts

During a televised interview at the party conference, Doi played down the possibility of Japan's becoming internationally isolated, saying "China and the Soviet Union have not provided support for the multinational force, and they are not isolated." It was a statement so strange it made us doubt we heard her correctly.

Does she really mean to equate Japan, a major economic power which has profited more than any other country from world peace, with poverty-stricken China and the Soviet Union? It should at least be clear that Japan's situation differs from oil-producing China and the Soviet Union, in that it relies on the Middle East for 70 percent of its oil supplies.

China did abstain from the U.N. Security Council resolution giving the multinational force the right to use force. But the Soviet Union voted in favor of that resolution.

With such a strange view of the world, Doi's antiwar passions could endanger attempts at peace. We ask the JSP what exactly it believes to be its responsibility toward maintaining the nation's prosperity and the welfare of its people.

Anti-Japanese Feeling Mounting in Muslim Nations

OW1102134691 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 11 Feb 91 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Signs of anti-Japanese sentiment in Muslim countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa have become increasingly visible since the media reported Japanese proposals to offer $9 billion in aid to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf war and send Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) planes to the Middle East.

Attacks on Japanese in the areas include a bomb which was recently thrown into the Japanese Embassy in Yemen. An angry letter was delivered to the Japanese Embassy in Morocco on January 25 immediately after the proposal for the additional aid was reported the embassy said. The letter written in Arabic said, "By making financial contributions to the U.S.-led multinational forces, Japan will be antagonizing Arabs and Islam. Stop it immediately." A threatening phone call was also made to the home of an embassy employee around the time the letter was received.

In Bangladesh, the Dacca office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was nearly attacked by about 40 anti-U.S. demonstrators on Jan. 18. The office was unharmed thanks to policemen who happened to be passing by.

There was also another incident recently in Bangladesh in which someone threw stones at a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. "This country was actually friendly to Japan, but lately it has become scary for us to even go outside," said Norio Matsuzawa, director of the Dacca office of JICA. "At the people's level, Japan is being treated in the same way as the countries directly involved in the war."

Amman (ASAHI SHIMBUN)—A Japanese reporter was completely surrounded by people shouting grievances at him upon visiting a Palestinian refugee camp in the suburbs of Amman.

People in the camp where about 73,700 Palestinians live shouted comments such as "Are you going to become an enemy of Arabs?" and "Do you intend to begin fighting in the war by sending military aircraft?"

When the reporter went into a restaurant here where many anti- U.S. demonstrations have been held, people turned to him and asked, "Why is your country spending so much money to help the United States?" and "Japan used to be friendly to Arabs. What has gone wrong all of the sudden?"

Jerusalem (ASAHI SHIMBUN)—The Japanese Government's response to the Gulf war is widely known here, and Palestinians have been vocal in criticizing Japan.

A 24-year-old Palestinian working at a clothing accessory store said, "Why are the people who suffered Hiroshima helping out in a war effort?" A 63-year-old Palestinian, who was a government worker until he lost his job during the third Middle East war in 1976, said "If you put tree branches over a fire, it will of course flare up. Japan has joined in the war by using money."

Tokyo Urged To Review Support for Allies in Gulf

OW0902111891 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 8 Feb 91 p 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[ASAHI SHIMBUN 8 February editorial: "Don't Send SDF Planes"]

[Text] Every political party has been given the chance to question the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during the House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting dealing with the policy to support the multinational effort in the Persian Gulf region. We would like to point again to the objections raised by all the opposition parties against the government decision to dispatch Self-Defense Forces (SDF) aircraft to the Middle East by revising a cabinet ordinance concerning an article of the law governing the SDF rather than by amending the law itself.

Even the Democratic Socialist Party, which has called the sending of SDF aircraft "an unavoidable measure," argued that it "could not assent to handling the issue through a cabinet ordinance." The issue concerns the fundamental nature of a constitutional state.

In order to restore peace to the Persian Gulf region, Japan should contribute not only money and hardware, but should also include personnel as well. However, under the present circumstances, formulating an aid package for the Persian Gulf region based on the consensus of the Japanese people will be difficult. The government and Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) should abandon their decision to dispatch SDF aircraft.

Atsuo Kudo, director-general of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau, explained that the special cabinet ordinance is "within the limits of the authority of the law and an acceptable measure for the government to deal with changing circumstances." In our view, however, sending the SDF to a war zone would be a major change in foreign and defense policy. With the Diet now in session, the matter should not be left entirely up to the government to decide. There is also a lack of coherence with past government statements in the Diet.

There is also concern about the safety of using military aircraft to airlift evacuees. While there are worries about terrorists and guerrillas, there has been no clear statement on the weapons that SDF members would be allowed to carry. The government's explanation of safety measures is not convincing.

According to an LDP study team that visited nations in the Middle East, the Jordanian Government at first expressed reservations about allowing SDF aircraft to fly into and from Jordan, and anti-Japanese sentiment among local residents is worsening. Sending military aircraft with the Rising Sun painted on their wings under such conditions would not be good policy for maintaining relations with Arab nations over the long term.

Sending SDF aircraft is not the only method available for evacuating war refugees. In fact, Japanese citizens have already chartered one commercial plane to fly evacuees from Amman to Cairo. Why can the government not take the lead in carrying out such a measure to deal with the changing circumstances?

The other point of contention in the committee deliberations is the issue of contributing an additional $9 billion to the multinational force. The government has not been able to satisfactorily answer questions concerning the nature, basis of calculation, revenue source and use of that aid.

Prime Minister Kaifu repeatedly said that "the appropriate financial burden was decided independently after comprehensively considering the situation." An abstract explanation such as this is unacceptable from the standpoint of the taxpayer.

While Kaifu has softened his stance of relying solely on tax increases to pay for the aid package and has revealed his intention to begin considering cuts in budget expenditures, he has not taken any concrete action besides talking about this possibility. The government should concretely outline a revised draft of the budget proposal for the coming fiscal year as soon as possible.

Some progress was made on the use of the financial support in the sense that it was clarified that the funds would be used only for non-military purposes. Prime Minister Kaifu declared the government's policy of earmarking the funds for only five areas—transport, medical care, food, the daily needs of military personnel and administrative work. The U.S. Government also announced its position that the funds would be used for rear-echelon support.

The Clean Government Party (Komeito), which holds the key to passage of a bill on revenue sources in the House of Councilors, where the LDP does not have a majority, has spoken favorably about Kaifu's statement. However, there are still a number of points which remain unclear.

If the Persian Gulf war is prolonged, it is predicted that the United States will request additional funds. One possible step would be placing limits on the nature and use of the funds contributed by passing a Diet resolution.

The government and LDP took quick measures to indicate their unwavering support of the United States. There are those who hold the idea that the SDF should fly the Rising Sun flag in the Middle East as evidence of Japan's position as an allied nation.

However, the idea that Japan should contribute to the world by non-military means has gained understanding in international society. President George Bush affirmed that the United States was not requesting military contributions from Japan.

Emergency measures that lack a long-term perspective will leave behind the roots of future trouble. The government and LDP should review their policy of supporting the multinational effort in the Middle East while being watchful of the direction Japan should take in the 21st century and of the rebuilding of the region and the creation of a new world order after hostilities cease.

Government Urged To Find 'Own Way' in Gulf

OW1002092591 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 9 Feb 91 p 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[ASAHI SHIMBUN 9 February editorial: "Finding Our Own Way in the Gulf"]

[Text] Germany is placed in a position similar to Japan's over contributing to the war effort in the Persian Gulf. The German Government has decided to give an additional $5.5 billion. The decision came in the midst of harsh criticism of Germany's passivity in international cooperation.

As is the case with Japan, whose contribution measures have been debated at home with respect to the pacifist Consitution, constitutionality is at issue in Germany.

Before the onset of the Gulf war, Germany had dispatched 18 fighters to Turkey, which borders Iraq. It has now decided to send a ground-to-air missile unit. The Americans have air bases there for strikes on Iraq. Germany is poised to join in defending Turkey, should it suffer retaliatory Iraqi attacks.

Under the Basic Law, its Constitution, Germany has made a policy of confining mobilization of its defense forces to defensive purposes within the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In the Gulf war, the U.S. troops are the mainstay of the multinational force, but the conflict is not NATO's. If the Germans took up the gauntlet in Turkey against the Iraqis, goes the legal interpretation by the ruling Christian Democratic Union, the limits explicitly defined by the Basic Law would be exceeded.

Reluctant though it was, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government has opted for a road that could lead it astray from the Basic Law. While Bonn ineffectively busied itself in coming out with a response, Germany was made a focus of criticism by the mass media of the United States, Britain and other nations. Then it happened that young people refused conscription out of repugnance at the thought of being sent to Turkey.

In some aspects, conditions in Germany differ from those in Japan. Germany is indebted to some of the countries involved because of the international cooperation and support it received in the nation's unification last year. Besides, it has come to light that some German corporations were secretly involved in giving Iraq access to chemical weapons. The state's conduct is separate from that of private businesses, but the German Government's position toward the world has been weakened by mounting cries of Germany-bashing.

In World War II, Germany and Japan invaded their neighbors and suffered defeat. In the cold war context, West Germany's Basic Law, which allowed it to become a NATO member, was naturally different from the war-renouncing Japanese Constitution. But the basic spirit of vowing not to become a major military power is common to both nations. Having developed into major economic powers, the two nations are exposed to the criticism that they enjoy prosperity but do nothing else.

In opting to dispatch additional troops to Turkey, Chancellor Kohl expressed his intention of revising the Basic Law. He judged that others would demand that Germany share burdens beyond the existing arrangement.

Yet he also emphasized that the constitutional amendment would not be for the purpose of making an immediate response to the Persian Gulf war. German political parties are supposed to begin consulting before summer vacation, and he said he will not put the bill to the Bundestag while the war is going on. It is enlightened not to make a decision on a basic matter of national military affairs when an increasingly fierce war situation might stir up excitement.

Kohl's response is quite different from the Japanese Government's makeshift plans to dispatch Self-Defense Forces aircraft to the Middle East to help evacuate refugees. Our government has tried to circumvent the Diet's check on it with a mere revision of a cabinet ordinance.

The Basic Law amendment will open the way for Germany to make "manpower" contributions to military conflicts. In so doing, however, the country reportedly plans to join U.N. peacekeeping forces. By contrast, the Japanese Government and the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party have done things to indicate that their objective may be simply to fly the Rising Sun flag in the Middle East.

The war broke out at the instant we began to believe that the cold war had ended, especially in Europe. The international community was caught off guard without any preparation for a new world order. A stable and flourishing international community will not be realized unless the ways of Japan and Germany, two nations that have strived not to become military powers, are paid respect in the world. Japan ought to hammer out its own way of contributing and keep this in perspective.

Dangers of Escalation in Gulf Fighting Viewed

OW0902091791 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 8 Feb 91 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Behind the Scenes" article by Minoru Hirano: "Why Does Japan Oppose a Truce?"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, in a television interview Sunday, justified the 1945 decision of U.S. President Harry Truman to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, saying their use saved lives and helped end the war.

But the Japanese also remember the 300,000 civilians that died as a result of this cruel war-shortening measure.

More disturbing to the Japanese, recent Gallup polls found that 45 percent of Americans would favor the use of nuclear weapons if they would save the lives of U.S. troops in the Gulf.

However, most of the Japanese people will not permit the government to pay the costs of a war that sees the use of these weapons of mass destruction.

If nuclear bombs were to fall, anti-American movements would explode in Japan and the rest of the world.

Recently, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama that any war should be reconsidered after a certain stage. Gorbachev said that in the case of the Gulf, a ground war is certain to produce heavy casualties on both sides.

Despite Gorbachev's warning, U.S. President George Bush, speaking to a Reserve Officers Association meeting, declared his opposition to any pause in the fighting, and vowed to go "all the way."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe, endorsing Bush's war policy, said that Japan would not support an appeal from certain nonaligned countries, including Yemen, India, Algeria and Libya, for an immediate ceasefire because it does not provide for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

However, an escalation in the fighting will cost Japan a lot more.

As soon as a ground war over Khafji between Iraqi troops and the coalition forces ended, Japanese Ambassador in Riyadh Takashi Onda requested the U.S. ambassador in the same city to investigate whether there was any damage to the Khafji facilities of the Arabian Oil Co., Japan's largest oil producer.

About two hundred Japanese, their relatives, and 1,500 local employees were all evacuated from Khafji before the outbreak of the war.

U.S. forces reported that there was no damage.

Nakayama informed Keiichi Konaga, president of Arabian Oil Co. Konaga, recalling that only one of the company's 20 oil tanks in Khafji had been damaged by shelling immediately after the outbreak of the war, told Nakayama that he was afraid the remaining facilities would be destroyed if the battle over Khafji resumed.

The escalation will also prevent Japan from playing a role in the Middle East after the war.

Nakayama, in his foreign policy speech to the Diet, said that after the war ends, "international cooperation would be necessary in such areas as economic revitalization, security and arms control in order to secure long-term stability in the Gulf" and that "the international community must redouble its efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian problem."

However, should the war end with the total destruction of Iraq and heavy Iraqi civilian casualties, Western countries will become the targets of Arab rancor and hatred for years to come.

Japan will not be able to perform the role of a mediator between the West and the Arab world if this country shows no sympathy for the sufferings of the Arabs and supports only Washington.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the Diet "Japanese pacifism should not be of the type that forces us to live in an isolated peace." If he really believes so, why did he not, as prime minister of a nation with a war-renouncing Constitution, say that he was sad that the Gulf crisis had escalated into a war and that many lives were being lost?

In the House of Representatives Budget Committee, which started a discussion of Japan's role in the war Monday, opposition parties opened fire on Kaifu by asking why the government has done nothing to try for an early end to the war.

Editorial Views Effect of Gulf War on Economy

OW2201154791 Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 21 Jan 91 p 2—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Editorial: "Gulf War's Effect on Economy"]

[Text] What effect will the Gulf war have on the Japanese economy and people? The war, still in its early stage, has brought on an optimistic mood. The price of crude oil has dropped by more than 10 dollars a barrel and stock quotations are soaring. The dollar rate and price of gold, generally expected to be strong during an emergency, have declined.

The greater anxiety when the war broke out was that Iraqi missile attacks might destroy the large oil fields in the eastern part of Saudi Arabia. If that had happened, crude might have shot up to more than 60 dollars per barrel. Fortunately that has not taken place. It is risky, however, to be too optimistic about the future. The effect that the war will have on the economy must not be underestimated.

The reason for this is that there is no guarantee that the war will end any time soon. Even if Saudi Arabian oil fields have become safe from attack, the fact that several thousand Palestinians work at those oil fields is a dangerous factor.

It should not be forgotten that while oil is a commodity whose price is determined by supply and demand, it is also a political commodity that is affected by international politics. Even if the situation is settled from the military standpoint, the oil situation is bound to be precarious until a political settlement is reached.

It would therefore be wise for the government and the people to be prepared strategically for a hike in the price of crude. In August and October last year, the Japanese Government, in an effort to save energy, decided to keep the interior heating temperature at less than 20 degrees centigrade. The way in which this has been carried out is not entirely satisfactory.

Thorough energy saving should be considered as a public duty not only for the sake of Japan, but also in order to be able to divert this limited resource to the developing countries. When the war broke out, the International Energy Agency (IEA) decided to supply the market with 2,500,000 barrels per day by drawing from stockpiles and by saving energy. This is the kind of international cooperation in which Japan should take the lead.

Contrary to what had been forecast, the price of crude oil dropped and the value of the yen went up after the outbreak of war, though no unfavorable effects on commodity prices have appeared as yet. Nevertheless, such a fair wind cannot be expected to continue forever. Depending on the way the war develops, there is a strong possibility that the price of crude will go up, as will commodity prices in general, interest rates and currency quotations.

Needless to say, attempts by enterprises to hold back sales in anticipation of a rise in prices or opportunistic selling, should be curbed. Besides administrative guidance and surveys by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Economic Planning Agency, there is a need for monitoring the situation by the people as a whole.

Although the Gulf war is likely to slow down the tempo of Japanese business, the effect may not be as severe as in the United Kingdom and the United States. America's fiscal deficit might expand to 300 billion dollars. When the Gulf war reaches some kind of a settlement, U.S.-Japanese economic friction is bound to enter the spotlight again.

The impression that Japan is not contributing as much as desired to the Gulf war is irritating Americans and worsening their sentiment towarad Japan. We must counter this mood.

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